WORKS IN PROGRESS

Volume 21, No. 3 | SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990 | July 2010

Biomass incinerators planned for Shelton

by Mike Coday

Currently, there are two wood waste incinerator power generation projects being planned for Shelton. These projects are generating a lot of heat and discussion in the local environmental community. *Works in Progress'* Mike Coday reached out to speak with Pat Rasmussen, a local environmental activist with the World Temperate Rainforest Network and Duff Badgley of No Biomass Burn of Seattle about the Shelton biomass incinerators.

Mike: *There are two biomass incinerator projects proposed in Shelton. The Adage plant is projected to burn more than a ton of wood per minute and would use 125,000 gallons of water per day with the outflow of that water being released (dumped?) somewhere near Oakland Bay. The Simpson plant is projected to burn more than a ton of wood every two minutes and is expected to release about 135,000 gallons of water per day into Shelton's sewage treatment system. Both of these projects are planned by for-profit entities and are trying to make efficient and profitable use of waste wood materials produced through logging and sawmill operations around Shelton. Is it reasonable to present the Shelton biomass projects as environmentally sound projects? Are they safe and sustainable for the South Sound?*

Duff Badgley: We have been working on the ground in Mason County since February 2010 opposing the proposed Adage and Simpson incinerators. Both are extremely dangerous burners - for humans and for all creatures in the Puget Sound region.

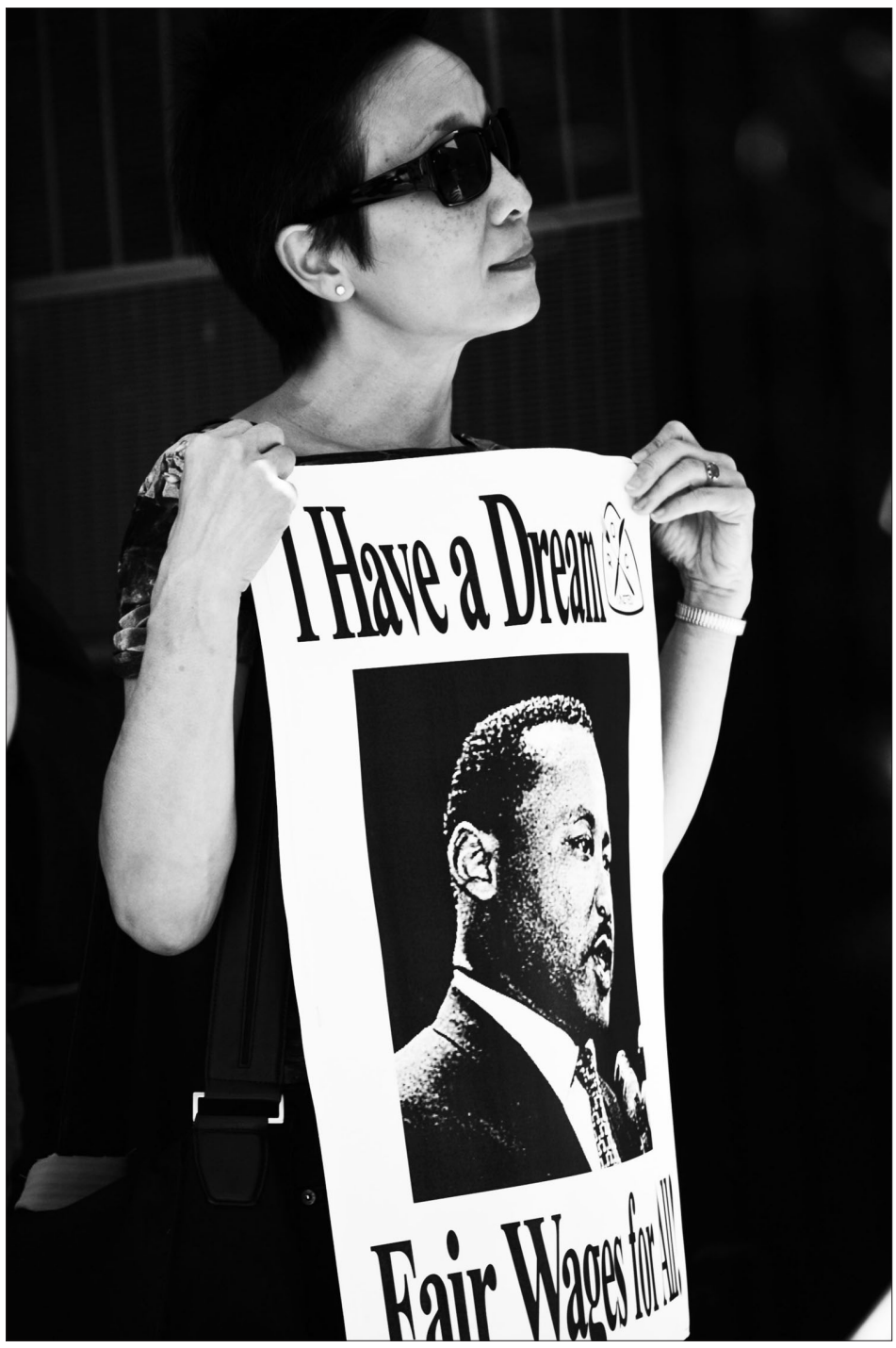
The proposed Adage and Simpson biomass incinerators would do these things:

- Emit, between them, 825,000 tons of CO_2 per year, according to statistics from the federal EPA and Department of Energy. These high volumes of CO_2 would stoke our unfolding climate crisis. This CO_2 would also accelerate the acidification of waters, including the Puget Sound, now threatening the entire marine chain of life in Northwest waters.
- Emit nano-and $PM_{2.5}$-particulate matter (PM) pollution so toxic, despite air pollution controls and permits, it can kill humans from a single exposure. The American Lung Association State of the Air Report-2008: "First and foremost, short-term exposure to particle pollution can kill. Deaths can occur on the same day when particle levels are high." Nano-PM (or ultra-fines) are unregulated and uncontrolled by any permitting process. They are the most lethal PM pollution.

Pat Rasmussen: Biomass projects that burn wood are harmful to the environment and take us in the opposite direction that we need to go if we want to reverse the impacts of climate change and live in a sustainable way.

The proposed Shelton biomass projects would take wood (trees) in a 50 to 75-mile radius of Shelton, from the temperate rainforest of the Olympic Peninsula that has higher carbon densities than any other type of forest, anywhere in the world – more than tropical, temperate or boreal forests. The Pacific Northwest (PNW) may be more amenable to storing carbon through management and conservation efforts than other systems. PNW forests account for 39 percent of total ecosystem carbon in the United States. Forests could, theoretically, store an additional 310-341 Mc C/ha. To increase the carbon store to this level would require forest management aimed toward carbon sequestration. Given recent estimates of the value of carbon in economic analyses the average worth of each hectare of forest land could be thousands of dollars for additional carbon sequestration. Multiplied by the area of forest land in Oregon and Washington, this additional carbon storage would be worth billions of dollars. If

▸ **BIOMASS,** continued on page 5



USSF 2010 participant ***Photo by Sasha Y. Kimel***

News blackout from Olympians in Detroit and Toronto

from WIP News Service

Scores of Olympia activists headed east over the past few weeks to attend and take part in the US Social Forum in Detroit and maybe to look in on the G20 Summit in Toronto. Olympia can expect to be hearing about the US Social Forum in the near future as Olympians return to the South Sound, but at deadline for *Works in Progress* we have no first person coverage from Detroit or Toronto.

Democracy Now!'s coverage of the US Social Forum was very first-rate. Check it out at www.democracynow.org. Across the border from Detroit in the week following the US Social Forum, the G20 Summit took place, and it appears that Canadian law enforcement used the excuse of security for the G20 to stage a raid on Canadian taxpayers. The security budget for the Toronto G20 was originally estimated to run about $179 million dollars, but jumped closer to $1 billion dollars. For comparison, the G20 security in Great Britain in 2009 cost $30 million. The Winter Olympics in Vancouver also ran a security bill that was over $800 million. I guess it's just expensive for Canada to host big events.

Early reports from the G20 suggest that the security bucks may have created a police riot and the Toronto police are feeling the need to do a little public relations. Toronto Police don't seem to do public relations well.

Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair invited journalists to a press event on June 29 and set up a display table of dangerous items confiscated during the G20 including arrows covered in sports socks that he said were designed to be dipped in flammable liquid and set ablaze. Maybe he meant to say, the sports sock arrows could conceivably be used in this way?

It turns out that these "flaming arrows" were actually confiscated from Brian Barrett who was on his way to a role-playing fantasy event when he was stopped and had his gear confiscated.

▸ **TORONTO,** continued on page 10

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We also print some downright crazy and silly stuff, so send us your gonzo stories and push the boundaries, if you dare.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

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and room for more...

COVER CARTOON CREDIT

Terrence Nowicki, Jr. is an award winning cartoonist who created the front cover cartoon on Olympia's new downtown parking kiosks.

"While I was researching the topic on the Olympian's website, I noticed a lot of people posting comments on the articles felt this'd be a good time to complain about the homeless, no matter how they felt about the kiosks. . . So, I came up with something which both illustrates general annoyance about paid parking and makes fun of people who are more concerned about parking their cars than they are about helping the poor."

His work can be viewed at http://thisishistorictimes.com/

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Any dictator would admire the uniformity and obedience of the US media. N Chomsky

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Letters to the editor

BP will get bailed out - by all of us

In February I gave a guest lecture on energy and climate change to a group of graduate students in environmental studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia. I was speaking on behalf of the Washington Wildlife Federation, the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, whose top legislative agenda item is clean energy and climate change legislation.

Near the end of my lecture, a student asked me what I thought it was going to take to get Americans off of fossil fuels. I told them it would take some kind of disaster. I told them it would have to be a catastrophe that would awaken this country with the same impact Japan had on us at the start of World War II. The BP drilling disaster in the Gulf of Mexico might not qualify, but it is quickly growing into one of our worst ecological nightmares ever.

Despite President Obama's statement after the explosion that BP would be held accountable for all the clean-up costs and damage, the unfortunate reality is that we will be paying those costs and we will be more than happy to do so, regardless of the price, whenever we fill up at the pump. More importantly, we will live with an economically and ecologically damaged Gulf Coast. Its wetlands, with all their wildlife and fisheries, are likely to be affected for generations. That cost will be borne by all of us, our children and grandchildren.

I'm angry with BP for such an irresponsible, inadequate and arrogant disaster plan that said such a spill was unlikely and which left them totally unprepared for the worst-case scenario. After the Wall Street and banking debacle, it shouldn't surprise anyone that there is no backup plan. How many times have we heard comments like: "We underestimated the severity of the crisis; we didn't plan for this type of failure; we didn't see this coming; we don't know what went wrong," etc.? Meanwhile, the scope of the disaster grows by more than 200,000 gallons a day — perhaps much more. I'm upset that again, we find out an industry our government was supposed to be regulating to protect our health and welfare has influenced those regulations to protect their profits instead.

Most of all, I'm upset with us for continuing to support the oil companies with our insatiable appetite for oil and our inability to develop comprehensive energy legislation. Every one of us is partly responsible for this spill and every one of us will have to do something about it if we are going to survive very long in the 21st Century.

Until Americans are shocked into realizing there is an energy crisis, most of us will continue to do nothing. You can witness that complacency every day along America's freeways, airports and cities, where our behavior gives no hint of a looming energy crisis. That indifference is slowing the progress of those trying to move this country away from oil and other fossil fuels and onto renewable and sustainable clean energy. For those who think there is no end in sight for oil, think about what officials will say when the last drop has been pumped from the ground: "We underestimated the severity of the crisis; we didn't plan for this type of failure; we didn't see this coming; we don't know what went wrong," etc.

On Wednesday, Sens. John Kerry and Joe Lieberman introduced the American Power Act, legislation that can finally get this country on a path to clean energy. This legislation will be met with stiff opposition from corporations, big oil and others who prefer the status quo. They will spend millions on lobbying and advertising to try and convince you that this is bad legislation or to change it to let them off the hook.

The spill in the Gulf may not be the shock that we need, but the plume of ugly brown crude spewing into the Gulf of Mexico should at least serve as a reminder of what we are trading off to keep using oil. Tell your representatives and senators that you expect them to address our oil dependence and energy crisis once and for all. Tell them to pass comprehensive energy legislation this year. Don't take partisan politics as an excuse and don't take no for an answer. We all need a clean energy solution.

-Mark Quinn
President
Washington Wildlife Federation
(www.washingtonwildlife.org).
Reprinted from Heraldnet, 16 May 2010

Ban on vendors continues to apply only to Last Word Books

Apologies for the confusion caused by June's little snippet on Last Word Books selling books at The Evergreen State College. Many folks seemed to think that this article was announcing a lift on the ban instituted at Evergreen in the fall of 2009. Last Word Books continues to be banned from selling books at Evergreen, while the Evergreen Bookstore continues to be rewarded with a monopoly contract for failing to make a profit for the past several years.

These same administrators who pushed through the ban on any outside vendors who could be seen as competing with something that the school sells also complained in the same breath about the rising costs of delivering mail to students who order books off of Amazon.com! To think that our esteemed university would cow-tow to a huge online conglomerate rather than cater to a student-started local organization! What about the corporate soda in the vending machines? What if I was a pencil maker and wanted to sell my pencils on Red Square?

Last Word Books provided a valuable service on Red Square for ten straight years before being shut down by a supposedly radical organization supposedly dedicated to the ongoing enlightenment and education and betterment of the community. Isn't variety the spice of life? Didn't Last Word Books provide a service intentionally completely different than that of the school store? This ludicrous ban on book-vending at Evergreen hurts the local populace in immeasureable ways while simply serving to prop up an obviously dated and failing mode of operating a college bookstore, whose overhead is far too high for its profit margin and which does not serve its local mographic in the way they would like to be served.

Try to envision a college bookstore run entirely by students, advised and trained by a local, radical, anarchist bookstore, paving the way to a new paradigm in the intersection between a localized economy, college,

bookstore, populace, and politics. Truly, literacy is an agricultural act, not a capitalist one. Support your independent booksellers!

Photos from the Social Forum

Top left: This is the part of the audience at the Opening Ceremony for the US Social Forum in Cobo Hall, a convention center in downtown Detroit. The USSF was well attended, with over 10,000 registered, and it's thought that overall participation was somewhere around 2 or 3 times the official registration count. Despite the amazing convergence of so many dedicated activists from all over the US, Canada, and the World, the conference received virtually no attention from the national mainstream press. It's telling that 300 people rioting in Toronto at the G20 received more attention than 30,000 people engaged in nonviolent constructive dialogue in Detroit.

Middle left: Tuesday, June 22—Several thousand demonstrators marched in the streets of Detroit prior to the official 2010 USSF opening ceremony.

Bottom left: Beehive Design Collective Table at the AMC. The larger work seen on the tapestry display is titled "The True Cost of Coal."

Top right: Participants in the Cascadia Freedom Caravan, including activists from Eugene, Portland, Olympia and Seattle.

Photos by Berd Whitlock.

R.I.P. Mark Wedeven – 1980–2010

The day *Works In Progress* went to press last month, we learned a dear friend of ours, social justice activist and longtime local mainstay Mark Wedeven, was declared lost in an avalanche on Mt. Rainier. His body has not been found.

Wedeven was involved in Port Militarization Resistance and with organizing anti-ICE activities. In 2007, Wedeven was arrested at a counter-protest against the racist Minutemen in downtown Seattle. Wedeven was charged with assaulting a Seattle police officer, but the charges were dropped when surveillance video showed that Mark hadn't touched the cop, but rather the cop had tackled *him* from behind. Mark also worked with English teaching for CIELO, and with Bread and Roses.

"Beautiful Mark" was an adventurer until the end. Amongst the more amazing events in his relatively short life, Wedeven was kidnapped by Colombian rebels in 2003, and was held hostage for several days before being released.

Upon hearing of Mark's death, one local activist had this to say about him:

Mark was a loving, compassionate friend, a selfless activist - a revolutionary in the truest sense of the word, completely to the core. I never knew anyone who didn't like him. I never, once saw him get angry. I really miss him and I guess am still in denial that he's gone.

I first met Mark at the port demonstrations in Tacoma. It was the night of the large police riot when the cops opened fire on people after they sang Give Peace a Chance. Earlier in the night, at a location that was closer to the ship, hundreds of people were gathered. It was a tense situation and a number of people were leaving, thinking that nothing was going to happen that night. Mark was one of several people who knew there was an opportunity for something to happen, to give voice to the voiceless, to maybe, just maybe delay the shipments. He, and the dozen or so other people in a sea of hundreds, started shaking the fence. He paid a bigger price than the rest of us and was shot up with pepper bullets and pepper spray by some heavily armed cops no more than a few feet away. The rest, as they say, is history.

I got to know Mark through activism, got to know him as a fellow anarchist, a dreamer, an adventurer. He was a carpenter and we occaisionaly did work together - it never really felt like work, no matter how hard it was, when I was with Mark. He had a way with turning things that in any other situations were boring, or arduous into something meaningful - probably simply because of his presence.

Mark was a real risk taker. Adventure was something he lived for and, ultimately, died for. Apprently, he told his mom at some point that if he ever died on a mountain, she shouldn't be sad. Mark died doing something he loved, and if anyone knows Mark, they know he's had a number of close calls, either in the wilderness, or being held hostage by Colombian rebels. Dying of old age in a nursing home or of cancer wasn't destined for Mark. He may have had a sense that that was the case.

I'm at a loss for words to accurately describe Mark. He was a true freedom fighter and his work with CIELO, Bread and Roses and PMR exhibited that. Perhaps it's best to leave with a story that sums up, if at all, the kind of person Mark was, who to many of his friends was known as Beatiful Mark. Perhaps this describes some of the beauty that was in, that was, and that still is Mark.

I remember a couple years ago when ICE agents were harrasing undocumented workers and immigrants in Lynnwood on a large scale. They set up checkpoints at random areas in the town and were apparently all staying at a hotel in town before they embarked on a planned mass raid. Mark's reaction was to drive up to Lynnwood in the middle of the night with a carload of friends and park outside of the hotel where the ICE agents were staying to keep an eye on them, on their movement. We stayed there all night with our eyes glued on the building, looking for any movement from ICE, hoping that we could alert people in town before ICE came knocking. It was Mark's idea to do this - that night, like all nights and days of Mark's life - he was living for others, not himself.

I hope that some day, I can be half the person that Mark was.

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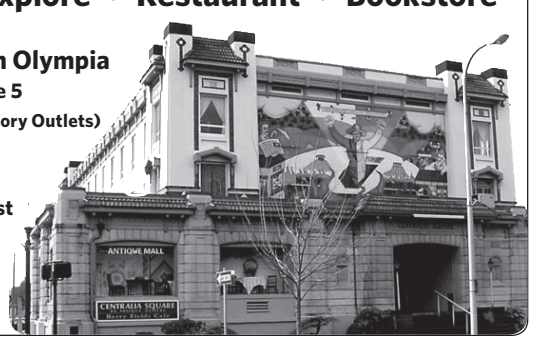

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Evergreen is considering biomass power generation

by Mike Coday

Works in Progress Round-table Discussion with Pat Rasmussen of the World Temperate Rainforest Network, Duff Badgley of No Biomass Burn of Seattle, and representatives from The Evergreen State College (TESC), Jason Wettstein and Scott Morgan. Jason is Media and Community Relations Manager and Scott Morgan, Sustainability Coordinator for TESC.

The Evergreen State College is exploring the possibility of switching from natural gas to a biomass gasification power source as part of TESC's plan to be carbon neutral by 2020. This project is generating a lot of heat and discussion in the local environmental community. *Works in Progress* reached out to speak with local environmental activists and representatives from TESC to learn more about the TESC biomass gasification proposal.

Gasification is the cleanest and most cost-effective solution that [Evergreen has] found to replace our consumption of fossil fuel.

Mike Coday: *So, give us a little background. How did TESC arrive at a plan to switch from a comparatively green power source like natural gas to a power plant using biomass? What is the source of the biomass that would be used in the TESC project? What is the source of the water and what is the plan for the discharge of water and the use of the waste material from the TESC project?*

Jason Wettstein/Scott Morgan (TESC): The Evergreen State College committed to a goal of carbon neutrality by 2020 in 2007, based upon the input and concerns of faculty members and students. Carbon neutrality means no net output of greenhouse gases as a result of institutional activities. Perhaps the most significant challenge to carbon neutrality is eliminating the use of fossil fuels for energy. Fossil fuels – coal, oil, and natural gas – release carbon that was sequestered over a geologic time scale (hundreds of thousands or millions of years). The world's extensive use of fossil fuels for energy has introduced an enormous quantity of greenhouse gases into the biosphere that had not been there previously. Reducing net production of greenhouse gases requires an energy source that is renewable and replaceable within much, much shorter time scales.

Evergreen uses two main sources of energy; natural gas and purchased electricity. We have been purchasing Renewable Energy Credits, thanks to a student initiative and fee, since 2005 to certify that 100 percent of the electricity used by the college was generated by a renewable (non-hydro) source. Natural gas combustion to create steam for campus heating remains our single largest use of fossil fuels. In 2009, a group of graduate students performed our first broad-based analysis of existing renewable energy technologies available for campus use. Their criteria were to find:

- renewable energy replacements for natural gas and electricity,
- technologies that could be located on-campus; and
- technologies appropriate to meet our needs (on-demand and seasonal) within our local climate (rain, gray, and dark)

The group's findings indicated that:

1. Most renewable energy technologies are focused on electrical generation, which does not address our heating issue.
2. Neither solar, wind, nor tidal generators could provide substantial energy resources during our peak demand periods (October through June).
3. Biomass gasification is an existing technology that produces a combustible gas that could easily replace natural gas in our existing heating infrastructure. It also relies upon a readily available local resource, forest slash, that is currently treated as waste, and can meet our needs during the dark and cold times of the year.

Mike: *Ok, I understand some of the background, but tell us more about gasification. Just how different is gasification from incinerator power plant technology?*

Jason/Scott (TESC): Gasification is a process of heating biomass in a very low oxygen atmosphere (which keeps it from burning). Heating the fuel without burning vaporizes the smaller hydrocarbons in the biomass. This vapor, called synthesis gas, is pumped from the original reactor through a particulate separator to clean it up then fed to gas burners just like natural gas would be. Overall, we're looking at a two-stage process. 1) Heat the biomass to produce the synthesis gas. 2) Burn the synthesis gas in our existing natural gas fired boilers to produce steam to heat the campus.

Our main concern is to transition to a more environmentally friendly fuel. We are not proposing the simplest or cheapest solution. Gasification is not the most efficient nor cost-effective means of extracting energy from biomass. It requires more infrastructure, more attention, and more exacting operating standards than would something like a wood-fired furnace. Gasification is, however, the cleanest and most cost-effective solution that we have found to replace our consumption of fossil fuel. Available emissions data from existing biomass gasification plants using wood as the initial fuel source indicate that the final emissions are similar to those produced by burning natural gas. Our feasibility study will verify this data. Evergreen has added an additional requirement to our project proposal that we will match or lessen our current emissions.

The TESC gasification incinerator would double the amount of CO_2 smokestack emissions compared to the current natural gas boiler used on campus.

There is an argument that coal and natural gas emit less greenhouse gas per unit of energy released or generated than biomass. That is correct, but it ignores the fact that fossil fuels are releasing carbon that is not currently cycling in the ecosystem, thereby adding carbon stored over geologic scales of time to our existing overburden. Fossil fuels are used because they are highly concentrated energy sources. This total emissions per unit of energy argument, however, ignores the time scale involved. We cannot reasonably argue that releasing carbon sequestered millions of years ago is better than releasing carbon sequestered in the past decade or so, carbon that could be recaptured within human timescales with good forestry management.

Also, wood waste that's left to rot, or that is burned directly also releases carbon, regardless of its use in a biomass gasification process. The point is, with more sustainable practices, we can manage and balance environmental impacts across decades. We have no control when we release carbon stored across millennia from fossil fuels.

Mike: *So, in the case of the TESC project, the primary motivation is to meet the carbon neutral goal by 2020. But how does this transition from burning natural gas to gasification (not burning?) wood biomass really stack up in terms of carbon output?*

Jason/Scott: Simply put, we are working toward reducing our fossil fuel carbon emissions to zero. Our net greenhouse gas emissions due to campus heating, based upon our understanding of the carbon cycle within the biosphere, would be zero if we achieve our goal.

We also hope to contribute to the local economy by spending our fuel dollars with local energy vendors and stimulating an energy market that hadn't previously existed. While not knowing the results of the feasibility study, we are working to explore one small strategy to improve the region's stewardship and care for its natural resources, and just maybe provide a model that is more sustainable than is present in the current political economy.

Duff Badgley: That all sounds good, but the Evergreen gasification incinerator is based on a false assumption: that burning wood is somehow carbon neutral. Overwhelming science, now accepted by a key committee of the federal EPA, documents that burning wood releases more CO_2 than coal and natural gas combustion. The TESC gasification incinerator would double the amount of CO_2 smokestack emissions compared to the current natural gas boiler used on campus. How? Gasification has two stages: (1) remove most or all oxygen from the burner and raise burnertemperature so the fuel wood separates into char and syn-gas.; (2) Burn the syn-gas to provide heat or electricity. Combustion of gasification syngas releases exactly the same amount of CO_2 as ordinary burning of wood does. And burning wood releases twice the CO_2 of natural gas combustion.

Mike: *So, Pat or Duff, what about the TESC explanation of the relative time cycles involved in the carbon emissions of biomass versus fossil fuels? If we assume that both biomass and fossil fuel extraction industries involve a significant amount of carbon footprint in the process of bringing burnable material to the incinerator or gasification burner, what about the forest's capacity to recapture the CO2 and sequester in the form of a renewable forest in a time frame that is the blink of an eye, like 40 years or less, when compared to geologic times that are associated with fossil fuels?*

Pat Rasmussen: Logging forests releases an enormous pulse of carbon to the atmosphere and it can take up to thirty years before that area moves

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

Evergreen statement regarding participation in this discussion

When TESC agreed to take part in this discussion, they requested that they be able to issue the following statement.

Jason Wettstein and Scott Morgan

Evergreen has worked hard to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and its carbon footprint. We have been leaders in working to understand global warming and have sought means to slow our contributions to it. We have looked at a range of alternative energy technologies to one day achieve climate neutrality, and regardless of the result of our current feasibility study on biomass gasification, it is clear that society's status quo reliance on fossil fuels is not good enough for Evergreen, nor for the planet.

We are participating in this article in order to outline the goals of our feasibility study, which is a still evolving work in progress, not to compare or contrast with projects we have no part in. We indicated to Works in Progress that we are in no position to pose as the counterpoint to the opponents of biomass combustion nor as defenders of the projects in Shelton, given that we have no knowledge or part of the projects in Shelton and that Evergreen is in a feasibility study role, not an advocacy role.

Because we are just at the outset of our feasibility study, we do not have all the answers to every detailed question. We are working to ask ourselves tough questions on environmental sustainability criteria, and without satisfactory answers, this project will not move forward. At this point, we are seeking community dialog to inform our process, a major reason why we chose to participate in this article.

We are engaging in a feasibility study after significant initial research into sustainable practices that indicates biomass gasification is worth further exploration. That means we are proponents for asking and working to answer questions to see if a biomass gasification project is feasible on sustainability criteria. We ask readers to form assessments of Evergreen's feasibility study as it evolves based on its own merits and purpose of identifying and answering questions related to environmental sustainability, rather than in comparison to external projects.

If you would like to continue to follow developments on our feasibility study, please visit http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability.

Jason Wettstein is Evergreen's Media and Community Relations Manager and Scott Morgan is the Sustainability Coordinator for TESC.

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▸ **BIOMASS,** continued from page 1

management strategies were such to allow forests to return closer to the carbon stores found in old-growth forests, the PNW would have considerable ability to sequester additional carbon. This could have significant economic applications. (Mark Harmon et al., "Potential Upper Bounds of Carbon Stores in Forests of the Pacific Northwest," Ecological Applications, 2002)

The proposed biomass incinerators are not safe. Among at least 35 airborne pollutants emitted by each of the two burners, these toxins include:

- Lethal particulate matter;
- Dioxins (carcinogenic);
- Mercury;
- Lead;
- Carbon monoxide;
- Chloroform;
- Formaldehyde; and
- Sulfurous acid.

Our health in the South Sound would be compromised for profits for distant corporations: Adage is owned by a French nuclear power company and a coal company from North Carolina. These companies stand to receive $75 million in taxpayer subsidies to support the proposed Adage plant.

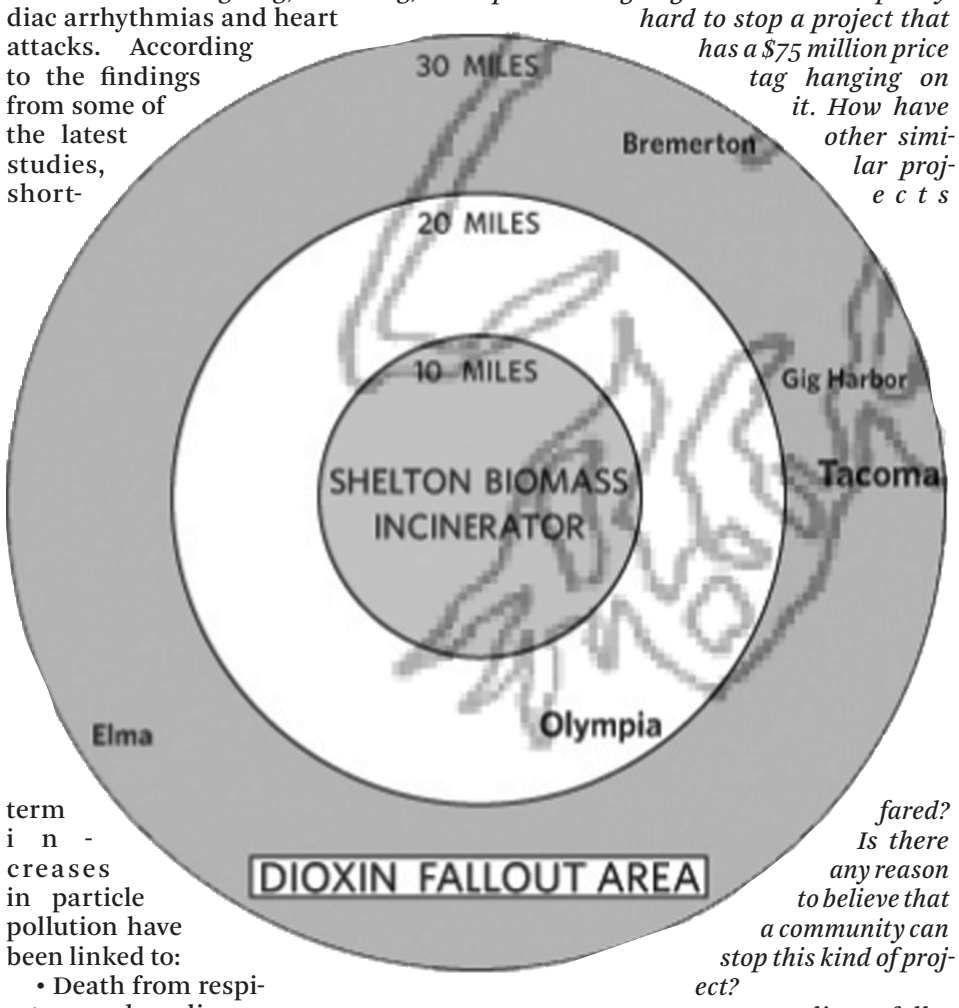
Mike: *There is a lot of concern about the particulate emissions and pollution from these biomass incineration power generation projects. Let's talk about the particulate and pollution impact of the Shelton projects and their impact on the health of people living near these projects.*

Pat: Biomass wood burning incinerators pollute the air, and the toxins fall in our water. This flies in the face of four of Washington State Department of Ecology's five priorities:

1. Saving Puget Sound;
2. Facing climate change;
3. Reducing toxic threats; and
4. Managing our water.

It also flies in the face of Governor Gregoire's Puget Sound Partnership – a regional initiative under way to protect and restore Puget Sound. The numbers of salmon, Orcas and many other creatures are at a fraction of historic levels. Essential natural processes have been disrupted through our actions. Clean-up of toxins is what we need, not pumping more pollution from toxic incinerators into air and water.

According to the American Lung Association State of the Air, 2008 Report, particle pollution diminishes lung function, causes greater use of asthma medications and increased rates of school absenteeism, emergency room visits and hospital admissions. Other adverse effects can be coughing, wheezing, cardiac arrhythmias and heart attacks. According to the findings from some of the latest studies, short-term increases in particle pollution have been linked to:



Graphic by Patrick Penoyar, taken from a flyer provided by No Biomass Burn

- Death from respiratory and cardiovascular causes, including strokes;
- Increased mortality in infants and young children;
- Increased number of heart attacks, especially among the elderly and in people with heart conditions;
- Inflammation of lung tissue in young, healthy adults;
- Increased hospitalization for cardiovascular disease, including strokes and congestive heart failure;
- Increased emergency room visits for patients suffering from acute respiratory ailments;
- Increased hospitalization for asthma among children; and
- Increased severity of asthma attacks in children.

Mike: *So, tell me about the time frames and current status of the Shelton projects? Is it a foregone conclusion that these plants are going to be built? It's pretty hard to stop a project that has a $75 million price tag hanging on it. How have other similar projects fared? Is there any reason to believe that a community can stop this kind of project?*

Pat: Ordinary folks in Gretna, Florida forced ADAGE to cancel its plans for a 55 MW biomass incinerator-identical to the one ADAGE proposes for Shelton, WA.

Here's a quote from the Florida organizers: "We had a thoroughly angry citizenry", said James Maloy, president of Concerned Citizens of Gadsden County. "This is the single reason we beat ADAGE."

Many communities are faced with this same challenge - one by one they are defeating them. There are more than 250 biomass incinerators proposed across the nation. Vying for stimulus funds, they have to break ground by December 31, 2010. ADAGE is fast-tracking the permitting process to meet this deadline and get $75 million in taxpayer funds.

We need to get busy and stop them.

Duff: Yes, it is possible to stop these incinerators. Let me say it this way:

<u>They are coming to kill us.</u>

They are coming to kill us. We shall not let them.

The two biomass incinerators proposed for Mason County would emit pollution so toxic a single exposure could kill.

We shall not let them.

The two biomass incinerators proposed for Mason County would emit pollution so toxic other residents would be made gravely ill.

We shall not let them.

The two biomass incinerators proposed for Mason County would emit vast amounts of carbon pollution stoking our climate crisis.

We shall not let them.

We have been organizing in Mason County against these lethal incinerators since February. We have organized mass public meetings—so many we constitute a shadow government necessary because Mason County elected officials refuse to hold hearings about the incinerators. We have organized street protests. We have disrupted official meetings with our chants and our bullhorns. We have swamped our local newspaper with letters to the editor. We have organized regional TV coverage of our protests. We have organized front page press coverage of our protests in Shelton and Olympia, stories carried nationally by the Washington Post, the New York Times, and ABC. We have repeatedly lobbied, challenged, booed, and pressured local politicians who support the incinerators. We have run half-page ads in the local newspaper. We have sold our tee shirts and window stickers at regional farmers markets. We have established two websites and an email list-serv several hundred members strong. We have fielded three candidates for public office with strong anti-incinerator platforms. We have hired one of the best environmental attorneys in the state.

We shall not let them kill us.

We shall win!

...we are working to explore one small strategy to improve the region's stewardship and care for its natural resources, and just maybe provide a model that is more sustainable than is present in the current political-economy.

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from being a carbon source back to being a carbon sink. Increased carbon emissions from logging can lead to positive feedbacks leading to runaway global warming.

While planting new trees is an excellent long-term policy, trees take decades to absorb the equivalent amount of carbon to that which is instantaneously released into the atmosphere when mature trees are cut down and burned. Trees absorb carbon dioxide very slowly – it could take a century or more for a growing tree to recover all the carbon dioxide that is rapidly released when another tree is cut down. This means that a policy to reduce deforestation would be more productive, in terms of emissions saved, than afforestation and reforestation. (Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, Chapter 25, January 31, 2006 - available online)

It's important to remember and heed the words of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "If there's no action before 2012, that's too late. What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. This is the defining moment." Rajendra Pachauri, head of the IPCC and 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. This was the IPCC call to action upon the release of the (IPCC) fourth and final climate change report on November 17, 2007.

Now it is three years later, 2010. It is clear to me. Biomass wood burning is the wrong way to go.

Duff: Incinerating wood, including by gasification, releases large amounts of carbon emissions almost instantly---and constantly. Resequestration of carbon emissions takes centuries. So incinerating wood acclerates climate change. It does not fight climate change. The basic assumption driving TESC proposed gasification incinerator is false.

The federal EPA says this about carbon sequestration:

"Indeed, for a given amount of CO_2 released today, about half will be taken up by the oceans and terrestrial vegetation over the next 30 years, a further 30 percent will be removed over a few centuries, and the remaining 20 percent will only slowly decay over time such that it will take many thousands of years to remove from the atmosphere."—74. Fed Reg.18886, 18889

Other peer-reviewed and published science expands on, and worsens, what the EPA says.

Dr. William Sammons of Cambridge, MA, one of the country's leading medical experts on the devastating health effects caused by biomass incinerator emissions, wrote this in February, 2010:

"Referring to the long time necessary to re-sequester carbon given the current loss of buffering capacity on the oceans and other changes in the ecosphere which have occurred, David Archer wrote:

"'This substantial portion of a pulse (of carbon emissions) will persist in the atmosphere, longer than Stonehenge, longer than time capsules, longer than nuclear waste, far longer than the age of human civilization so far.'

"The assumption of carbon neutrality is no longer valid. It cannot be used as a basis for policy decisions or as a justification for subsidies and tax/energy credits for biomass combustion."

If built, TESC proposed gasification incinerator would hurt us badly by doubling TESC carbon emissions relative to the current natural gas boiler, just when we are most in need of reducing our carbon emissions -- now.

Mike: *I understand that TESC students, faculty and staff are approaching this project in a very scientific way with a focus on sustainability. But isn't any biomass project still just fundamentally an extractive industry? How can biomass gasification overcome the carbon footprint and the resource exhaustion that attends extractive industries? Should we be looking at biomass as a renewable fuel material instead of identifying forest biomass as a fundamental building block of a healthy, diverse forest? What is the downside when we commodify this material as fuel?*

Jason/Scott: Whether biomass is

▸ **EVERGREEN,** continued on page 8

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HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

Percival Landing In Olympia, Washington

photo by Brian Sparhawk

Over 160 people attended the "Hands Across the Sand" demonstration in Olympia, including about 25 aware and actively participating children. People gathered for petition signing, local networking, and community support. We organized a line of solidarity along the dock at noon, and held hands for 15 minutes. Afterward, we gathered in the field for a closing circle where people shared thanks, information and ideas. We ended with a "cinnamon bun" hug. Some people left, some stayed to connect on the playground and others went to the water for a water blessing ceremony. -- Chandra Lindeman

photo by Brian Sparhawk

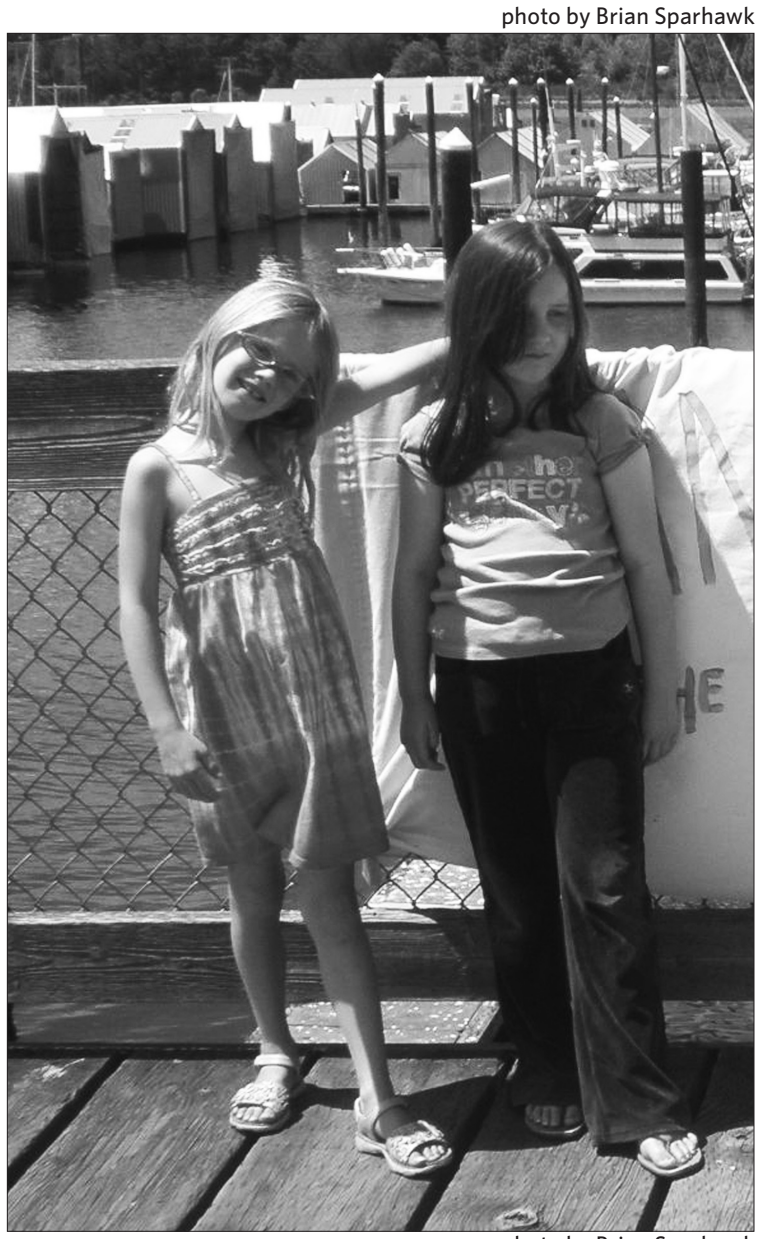


photo by Thomasina, Light Rain Photography

Apocalypse now?

BP oil gusher in the Gulf and the Atlantic...

by Duff Badgley

From my May 1, 2010 email urging activists into the streets of Seattle to protest the Corporate Reign of Ruin that gave us the Gulf Tragedy:

"Is this the Apocalyptic Moment we have been dreading--when our Seas Run Black and our Air Turns Poison? No one can say it is. No one can say it isn't. But, no one can argue this isn't a lurid, impossibly lethal chapter in the Corporate Reign of Ruin.

Who runs the planet? Not elected leaders like Obama, head of the most ferocious military in history. He has been rendered pathetically ineffective, reduced to making hollow threats against British Petroleum--the transnational oil company that Rules the Oily Seas.

Consider how large corporations are dominating news, shrugging off governmental intervention, and Plundering our Planet:

- April 5, 2010: an explosion at a Massey Coal coal mine in WVA kills 29 miners. This the same Massey that is the leading Mountaintop Removal extractor of coal.
- Revelations follow of years of consistent, defiant violations by Massey of government safety and environmental regulations. Massey has operated with impunity to maximize profit, kill its coal miners, and savage our Earth.
- April 20, : an explosion at a BP offshore oil drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico kills eleven rig workers, platform sinks, and a gargantuan flow of oil into the sea begins--and continues today.
- Revelations follow of years of consistent, defiant violations by BP of government safety and environmental regulations. BP has operated with impunity to maximize profit, kill its oil rig workers, and savage our Earth.
- Faced with catastrophic oil flows into the Gulf estimated from 210,000 gallons per day to six million gallons per day (the total 1989 Exxon Valdez 'spill' was 11.2 million gallons), Obama goes on national TV to say BP will be held responsible for cost of damages. BP says nothing. Here we have the president of the U.S. making idle threats against a transnational oil company. Not against another government. Against a transnational oil company--that knows from years of experience how to defeat any attempts at government regulation. Who rules the Oily Seas? It ain't the U. S. of A.
- Engineers (isn't it great survival of our oceans now depends on a handful of engineers?) may try building big boxes to trap the oil escaping the seabed at 5,000-foot depth. Then pump the oil up into tankers on the surface. Other engineers say this has never been tried at 5,000 feet down. Estimated time to build and place the big boxes--if they can be built and placed--two to three weeks.
- Other engineers may try drilling a 2nd adjacent well and angle it so it intercepts the ruptured well. Then 'simply' plug the failed well with concrete pumped down the second well. Estimated time to drill and plug--if it can be done at all--2-3 months.
- Meanwhile, 210,000-6 million gallons per day of oil escape into the Gulf.
- Back in the Gulf, experts are fearing "if the spill continues growing unchecked, sea currents could suck the sheen down past the Florida Keys and then up the Eastern Seaboard."
- And then to where? Last I checked, all the world's oceans flow seamlessly into each other.
- Who can say this isn't The Big One?

At the very least, we have an historic tragedy unfolding with massive, unthinkable deaths of wildlife and untold human and economic impacts. Brought to us by Our Corporate Rulers.

Let's start to Take Back Our Planet!!"

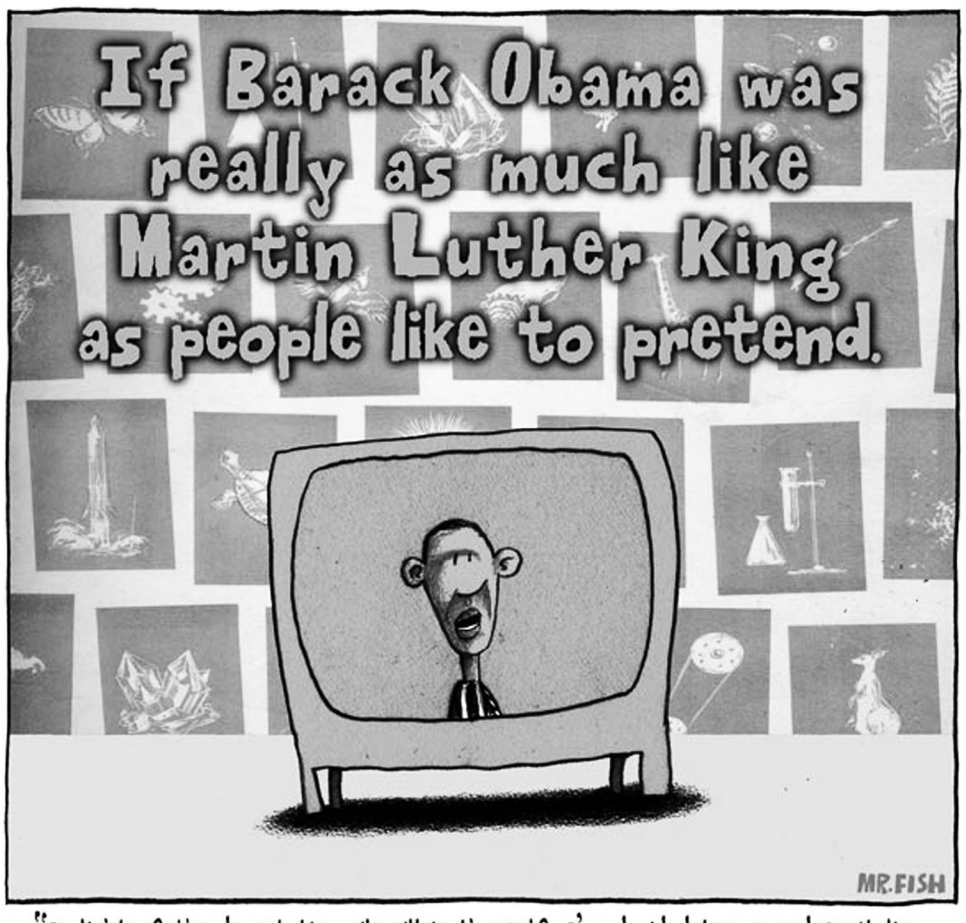
Since then:

- The 'official' estimates of daily oil gushing from the undersea volcano have risen to 3.5 million gallon per day;
- Extensive wetlands and beaches in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida are coated with thick gooey crude oil killing wildlife, canceling thousands of jobs, and driving humans away from the sea.
- Massive amounts of Corexit dispersant have been dumped into Gulf by BP, with approval by the U.S. government. Corexit is four times more toxic than crude oil. Corexit threatens life in the water as its pollutes the air all Gulf creatures breathe—including humans.
- Methane at levels one million times greater than normal have been discovered in Gulf waters near the ruptured BP oil well. Methane spurs growth of oxygen-consuming microbes and could turn large areas of the Gulf into Dead Zones.
- Evidence mounts that a rupture in the seabed near the BP well is also gushing oil. Scientists worry the fragile strata underlying the Gulf seabed could collapse —or already is collapsing — causing the entire oil reservoir drilled by BP to gush unstopped for 30 years. If this happens, according to some experts, the Atlantic Ocean as well as the Gulf of Mexico would be rendered lifeless.

After the Atlantic...? See my May 1, 2010 email.

If you want an aggressive, but realistic Plan of Action to respond to the Gulf Gusher, please write me at duff@nobiomassburn.org with the subject line: GULF GUSHER.

Duff Badgley is the founder of No Biomass Burn, opposing biomass incinerators in Washington, and co-founder of Concerned Citizens of Mason County. He is also founder of Climate SOS and Citizens' Coalition for Trees.



"In light of the devastating oil spill in the Gulf, I've decided to suspend Capitalism until we can determine that it is safe and not a threat to the planet's survival."

SchNEWS report from New Orleans on the BP oil-spill disaster

from SchNEWS

SLICK PUBLICITY

SchNEWS.org -- In response to America's largest ever environmental disaster, Tony Hayward, CEO of BP, said, "I'd like my life back." We're sure he does, as would the eleven workers who died on BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig when it exploded 40 miles off the Louisiana coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20.

But you have to sympathize with Tony. The fact that BP failed to test the strength of the cement in the well, despite knowing that the casing was "the riskier of two options" and that it "might collapse under pressure" can't be held against him. Even though the same disregard for safety killed 15 and injured 170 BP workers in the Texas Oil Refinery explosion of 2005.

BP has also had over 20 years since the Exxon-Valdez oil spill in Alaska to learn from its botched response to that disaster. Yes, despite Exxon having its name on the tanker, it was actually BP who disastrously failed to contain the toxic sludge that spewed into pristine wilderness. But that was then. BP has since spent billions of dollars on advertising telling us they are "Beyond Petroleum" - so beyond it in fact they don't care how much they lose.

BP has had over 8,000 minor and major recorded spills since 1990 alone. While all eyes have been on the current ecocide in the Gulf of Mexico, their Alaskan Pipeline burst in late May spewing 100,000 gallons of oil into the environment. State inspectors say this occurred because "procedures weren't properly implemented." In other words - they didn't give a damn.

The ho-hum lackadaisical attitude of Tony Hayward is indicative of BP's disaster response in general. It has been shocking to see BP's slow response to contain the oil. There is a complete lack of any oil containment technology, beyond stringing some booms (vinyl tubes) over the ocean that deflate and blow away. While the oil industry has poured billions of dollars into riskier deep-water drilling, it has not invested in responses to the leaks and disasters that have increased fourfold in the last decade.

CRUDE JOKE

Maybe we're overreacting. Let us again heed the soothing words of Tony, or Tiny Tony as he is now known in the US due to the following comment: "The Gulf of Mexico is a very big ocean. The amount of volume of oil and dispersant we are putting into it is tiny in relation to the total water volume." That would be the estimated 47 million to 235 million gallons of toxic crude oil that has poured into the ocean over the last eight weeks. Not to mention the use in the "clean up" of one million tons of the Corexit oil dispersant, a neurotoxin pesticide banned in the UK, arguably as harmful as the oil itself.

We need not worry our silly little heads about the ecological destruction either. Tiny Tony assures us, "the environmental impact of this disaster is likely to have been very, very modest." Come now Tony, it's you that is being modest.

As New Orleans and the coastal region still struggle to recover five years after Katrina, they face a real kick in the teeth. Meteorological experts are predicting "the most active season on record" for hurricanes, comparing ocean temperatures that contribute to hurricane formation to those in the summer of Katrina. Oil from the BP rig is predicted to continue to spew into the gulf for months to come. A hurricane sweeping a surge of oil into the wetlands and towns of Louisiana would be apocalyptic for the region.

Tiny Tony put it best last year, saying BP's "primary purpose was to generate profit for our share holders" and that "our primary purpose in life was not to save the world."

Really Tony, you don't say.

acupuncture is pretty cool.

http://2kensmith.blogspot.com/
923.0826
ken smith, l.ac.

▸ **EVERGREEN,** continued from page 5

an extractive industry is really a question of management. If someone were to physically scrape up every available bit of biomass in the region without concern for replacing it, in a manner similar to coal mining or oil drilling, I think you could call it extractive and extremely detrimental. Likewise, if we were to harvest forests directly as biomass fuel, rather than focus on wood waste; it could well be extractive and detrimental. Evergreen has a qualification within our proposal to only use fuel provided from forests managed to minimize environmental impacts. Responsible management of a living resource is one difference between extraction and renewable production.

How can gasification overcome the carbon footprint? Wood is replenished within decades, not over millions of years as is the case with fossil fuels. The primary by-products of gasification are 'biochar', which is suitable for use as a soil supplement, and carbon dioxide, which is consumed by new growth. And the alternative of leaving the wood waste to rot in concentrated piles also releases greenhouse gases.

The effects of our selection of fuel sources will depend on the size of the market and the source of the fuel. We don't have an answer to all our questions about these effects. This is the point of the feasibility study. Taking a whole systems approach and understanding our fuel sources and fuel source options are vital aspects of our feasibility study.

Forests are an environmental, economic, recreational, health, and spiritual resource. The aim of the feasibility study is to help us learn how to find balance and ensure these resources from the forests are not just renewable as they are often defined, but that we do not limit their potential to in fact be renewed so that these gifts are available for future generations. We intend to ensure that the answers to questions are in alignment with our values in regard to emissions, pollution, soil health, water and other sustainability criteria. Otherwise, the proposed project will not move past the feasibility study stage.

Pat: Biomass relies on deforestation and deforestation is estimated to produce about 18% of GHG emissions world-wide. Curbing deforestation is a highly cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and has the potential to offer significant reductions fairly quickly – no new technology has to be developed. It also helps preserve biodiversity and protect soil and water quality. Encouraging new forests, and enhancing the potential of soils to store carbon, offer further opportunities to reverse emissions from land use change.

Mike: *Why did TESC decide not to exhaust the truly sustainable, green power generation of their site through the deployment of grid-tie distributed solar electric arrays on all of the building tops? I recognize that the level of power generation would not match the output of a burner or gasification power plant, but it seems that the future is in conservation, reduction of power demand, and conversion to non-extractive power generation technology. TESC has an opportunity to demonstrate the power generation capabilities of a lower power, distributed grid tie system and that would seem like real leadership to me. Is it too late for TESC to rethink their embrace of biomass technology?*

Jason/Scott: The simple answer, Mike, is that solar photovoltaic provides electricity and we need a combustible fuel for heat. Also, our peak demand is October through June, the period of the year when we have the least solar exposure.

There are also a number of systemic issues associated with solar that we would want to consider, including resource mining and panel manufacture processes, both of which have serious environmental impacts and both of which would happen someplace else (some of the minerals are mined as far away as China). It's much easier to accept a strategy when the negative impacts of a process are displaced into someone else's backyard. We feel that there's an important social justice issue in that context however, that we must weigh in with the rest of our considerations. It's much easier to maintain control and responsible management of our impacts when we're dealing with locally produced and managed resources.

Evergreen does have a nine kilowatt solar array on top of the library, and it's great when the sun is shining. You can find real time information on its output here: http://tinyurl.com/25t4jxy

Finally, the distributed grid power system concept is fantastic, you just need to be able to sort out the different energy grids. We're proposing to generate gas on site so that we'll no longer be dependent upon the large natural gas grid (nearly 50,000 miles of pipeline) that extends far beyond state and national boundaries.

Mike: *Well, thanks for an interesting discussion. I have to say that I am worried that TESC may not be seeing the forest for the biomass with these plans. I am concerned that the carbon credits that TESC wants to use to balance the greenhouse gas emissions of a biomass gasification power plant may be strictly a numbers game. I fear that the carbon capture of the forest growth that TESC is counting in this feasibility study is going to happen whether TESC moves forward or not with biomass power. If that is true, then there is no real offset for TESC to claim to balance the increased greenhouse emissions from switching from natural gas to biomass.*

I also note that a recent survey by Granger Morgan of Carnegie Mellon University found widespread agreement among 14 expert climate scientists that the decisions that we make in the next 20 to 50 years will determine whether we hit 1,000 ppm in atmospheric green house gases. There was also consensus among these experts that we are likely facing a tipping point in the next 150 years, a point at which climate hits "an unpredictable state with unknown consequences for human societies if carbon emissions continue on their present course." That sound pretty ominous to me. You can read more about that study in Steve Connor's article in the June 28 issue of The Independent if you are interested.

In the face of that kind of warning, I just have to oppose a project that actually increases greenhouse gas emissions at any point source. I appreciate TESC's commitment to a carbon neutral campus by 2020, but I think there is a larger global challenge to reduce production of greenhouse gases that needs to considered here. I think that global challenge makes a fossil fuel like natural gas look like a good choice while we search for ways to produce the energy we need without locking the planet into a tipping point with "unknown consequences for human societies." I hope we will be able to continue this conversation as TESC continues to seek a path to carbon neutrality by 2020.

Thanks to Pat Rasmussen, Jason Wettstein, Scott Morgan and Duff Badgley for the discussion. There's a lot of information to absorb here. I am gratified, though not surprised, that we all agree on the climate change crisis. I will give you each a chance to get in your last word. Thanks again for participating in the discussion.

> *The TESC project will feed the frenzy to burn our forests. The Evergreen incinerator would not operate in a vacuum. It would operate in the shadow of larger incinerators in Mason County.*

Duff Badgley: The TESC project will feed the frenzy to burn our forests. The Evergreen incinerator would not operate in a vacuum. It would operate in the shadow of larger incinerators in Mason County, if they are built. All three burners would contribute to the enormously destructive practice of burning our forests to generate energy for human use. I have to say again that the TESC proposal is based on a false assumption: that burning wood is somehow carbon neutral.

I ask Evergreen to abandon its plans to research the gasification incinerator and save the $375,000 it has earmarked for the study project. Evergreen is doing, and has done, many good things as it moves toward greater sustainability. Considering a wood-fired gasification incinerator is not among them.

Pat Rasmussen: I say "No Biomass Incinerators."

Jason Wettstein and Scott Morgan: We agree that we have a crisis in regard to climate change, and that clearing or impoverishing forest ecosystems is not the path to reducing greenhouse gasses. That said, now is the time for creative thinking and to consider options to work toward remedying the mess the planet is in with regard to global warming. Our feasibility study will be an in-depth exploration of one strategy.

The point that's missing in the overall debate is the difference between the carbon sequestered millions of years ago in coal and oil and the carbon sequestered in the past few decades within a tree, or even within the past year in a grass. In a way that is advantageous to politically powerful, status-quo fossil fuel industries, the greenhouse gas emissions debates are often framed to ignore the re-sequestration time difference. We're suspicious of such arguments because when presented without that parameter, the continued use of fossil fuels seems like a better option than possibly promising technologies like biomass gasification.

While status quo reliance on the fossil fuel economy may be the best we can do in some people's minds, at Evergreen, we want to consider whether we can work toward something better. We have been at the forefront of efforts to understand climate change and we have been working to slow, and hopefully one day stop our community's contributions to global warming. Whether our biomass gasification idea is found to be feasible or not, one thing is clear, status quo reliance on fossil fuels is not a good enough solution for our planet.

We welcome readers to learn more about the technology under consideration and our other sustainability efforts by visiting http://www.evergreen.edu/sustainability/

Whose side are they on?

Monsanto's democratic minions in Washington State

Organic Consumers Association--Monsanto is a major corrupting force in the political arena. Each year Monsanto contributes hundreds of thousands of dollars to elected officials, while their powerful allies, Food Inc. and the Farm Bureau, contribute millions more. We characterize these indentured Congress members as "Monsanto's Minions," to call attention to the fact that they would rather deny consumers the right to know whether their foods are genetically engineered or not (90% of their constituents want labels on GMOs), rather than standing up to Monsanto and the other Gene Giants: Syngenta, Dow, BASF, Dupont, and Bayer.

The Democrats below oppose the labeling of genetically modified foods

Sen. Patty Murray; Sen. Maria Cantwell; Rep. Adam Smith (D-9th District); Rep. Brian Baird (D-3rd District); Rep. Norman Dicks (D-6th District); Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2nd District)

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▸ **TORONTO,** continued from page 1

The arrow tips are removed, replaced with pool noodle foam and finished with a sport sock for safety in role-playing evens. Mr. Barret's medieval body armor was also confiscated and on display as evidence of the danger posed by G20 protesters. Also on display were a chainsaw and crossbow that were seized in incidents having no connection to the G20 protests. Investigations will follow to determine just how badly the police handled the G20 security detail. There is no immediate news regarding when Brian Barrett will be rearmed and ready to do battle again.

For more information about the Toronto G20 events, check the coverage at *The Globe and Mail* http://www.theglobeandmail.com/ or at the Toronto Media Co-op http://toronto.mediacoop.ca/

Toronto police rough up journalists, arrest peaceful protesters at G20

by Daniel Tencer

More than 500 people have been arrested in Toronto after a night of rioting that saw police cars burned in the financial district and storefront windows broken as leaders of the world's largest economies gathered in the city for the G20 summit.

As clashes between police and protesters moved into their second day, there were more reports of journalists and peaceful protesters being arrested. *The National Post* reported that two of its photographers were arrested, and a Post blogger says a cyclist was arrested after accidentally bumping into a police officer.

Meanwhile, the UK's Guardian confirmed earlier reports that one of its freelance journalists, Jesse Rosenfeld, was beaten and arrested at a protest Saturday night (see article at right).

The arrested protesters are being held in cages at a converted film studio on the city's downtown east side. News reports indicate that, so far, none of the arrested have been let go. *The Globe and Mail* reports that about 100 peaceful protesters converged on the facility Sunday, chanting "Let them go."

As they stood outside the gate to the facility, at least two vans pulled up. Officers in plain clothes jumped out of the van and arrested a few protesters. Others began fighting back. A tense standoff ensued as a bus with officers in riot gear pulled up to the scene.

Police grabbed some protesters out of the crowd, throwing them to the ground and dragging them away. Others streamed away from the area, crying. Three stood nearby consoling each other and hugging.

A woman who said she was arrested while peacefully protesting yesterday described the conditions inside the detention facility to CTV. She said protesters were housed in cages, some without benches.

TORONTO -- Reporters covering the G20 summit in Toronto say they were the target of police violence overnight, as riots blamed on anarchist groups left four police cars burning in the financial district and resulted in the arrests of some 150 people.

"A newspaper photographer was shot with a plastic bullet in the backside, while another had an officer point a gun in his face despite identifying himself as a member of the media," reported the Canadian Press news agency. The agency did not say if it was its own reporters who were targeted.

In a remarkable series of tweets early Sunday morning, journalist Steve Paikin of public broadcaster TV Ontario said he witnessed "police brutality" against a reporter and the arrests of peaceful demonstrators.

"I saw police brutality tonight. It was unnecessary. They asked me to leave the site or they would arrest me. I told them I was doing my job," he tweeted.

"As I was escorted away from the demonstration, I saw two officers hold a journalist. The journalist identified himself as working for *The Guardian*. He talked too much and pissed the police off. Two officers held him while a third punched him in the stomach. Totally unnecessary. The man collapsed. Then the third officer drove his elbow into the man's back. No cameras recorded the assault. And it was an assault."

"I saw two officers hold a journalist. He identified himself as working for 'the Guardian.' He talked too much and pissed the police off. Two officers held him a third punched him in the stomach."

Paikin had been at a demonstration in Toronto's Esplanade neighborhood, a densely-populated area near the waterfront. He said police moved in on a crowd of peaceful, "middle class" protesters and began arresting them.

"Police on one side screamed at the crowd to leave one way. Then police on the other side said leave the other way. There was no way out," he tweeted. "So the police just started arresting people. I stress, this was a peaceful, middle class, diverse crowd. No anarchists. Literally more than 100 officers with guns pointing at the crowd. Rubber bullets and smoke bombs ready to be fired. Rubber bullets fired."

Paikin, a respected journalist who has hosted national election debates in Canada, said he was "escorted" away by police before he could see how many people were arrested, "but it must have been dozens."

"I have lived in Toronto for 32 years. Have never seen a day like this. Shame on the vandals and shame on those that ordered peaceful protesters attacked and arrested."

Earlier in the day, police told media that a small group of "Black bloc" demonstrators broke off from a protest of 10,000 people and began smashing storefront windows along the city's trendy Queen Street.

The CBC News Network reported that protesters smashed in the windows of an American Apparel outlet, pulled out the mannequins and spread feces on the floor. The storefronts of McDonald's and Starbucks locations were also damaged, as were numerous bank branches.

Police shut down all public transit in the city center, including subway and streetcar lines. They also shut down a large downtown shopping complex after reports of looting. AFP reported that some 200 people were trapped inside, unable to leave after the mall was put into lockdown.

Reprinted courtesy rawstory.com

Canadian state terrorism continues in Toronto due to G8/20 Summits

by Women's Coordinating Committee Chile-Canada

Toronto Media Co-op -- More than 600 people were detained throughout the city of Toronto during the G8/20 summits this past weekend. The harassment and persecution of the repressive apparatus was made apparent after Saturday's protest on June 26, where "Black Bloc" protesters left at least three police cars in flames, broke through chain stores, destroying two TV channel vehicles, banks and other things throughout the centre of the financial district - in this way taunting and discarding $1.3 billion dollars required for the "security" of the summit.

Brutal arrests and raids were carried out in various demonstrations and in the homes of activist organizers...

However the police apparatus continued its persecution throughout Saturday night, where brutal arrests and raids were carried out in the various demonstrations and in the homes of activist organizers resulting in more than 200 people detained, which were then transferred to the G20 detention centre; made exclusively for those protesting the summit. On Sunday, June 27 – the last day of the summit – the Integrated Security Unit tried to shut down ALL protests that were being carried out in the downtown core ("peaceful" or not), and continued to round-up people en mass, as well as "people of interest." 70 people were arrested in a brutal raid at the University Centre which was shut down during the week of mobilization, and were taken to the detention in police buses.

The police intimidated and interrupted protesters that were congregating in solidarity with those who had detained at the G20 detention centre in the east end of the city, where activists were selected and brutalized by special police forces that surrounded the crowd and then were taken away into detention. Rubber bullets and controlled tar gas were shot, as the police enforced the tactics of intimidation to the crowd throughout the entire day. The conditions at the east end detention centre are deplorable, which used to be the old Toronto film studios, where people were locked away in "large cold cages like animals" with only a single doorless portable bathroom in each. It has been known that people are negated water, food or the possibility of communicating with legal defence for long periods of time; one case states having been without food or medication for 19 hours.

Alternative media such as the TCMN communications network that groups various community organizations against the G8/20, were interrupted and intercepted by repressive forces while informing of the situation happening on the ground. Many of its members were detained and taken to the detention centre.

In the downtown core, the police thought that black clothing was sufficient evidence to be considered suspicious, and subsequently searched and detained. Special force police units spread throughout the core, searching and detaining people with "suspicious substances," or those who fit the profile of the Black Bloc. During the early evening hours, a small improved "peaceful" demonstration was completely encircled by riot police special force units in the area where protests had been held the day before. More than 200 people were encircled, the majority of which were regular people who were waiting for the streetcar. The repressive forces surrounded and cornered the group of people after having detained a few protesters, and maintained the crowd for over four hours under torrential rain and thunderstorms. Hours later, a portion of the people were let go and the rest were transferred to the detention centre after the summit had ended.

It should be noted that this version of events carried out by the repressive forces does not include all the harassment and persecution to activists and organizations during the course of time organizing against the G8/20, which hit its peak at the start of the week of mobilization. Beginning on June 21, police brutality was seen in the arrest of at least two activists for being part of an "ongoing investigation" in an anti-poverty march. On Thursday, June 24 the Mapuche and Indigenous solidarity event "Confront the Invasion: Down with the G8/20" was nearly shut down by the influence of police in civilian clothing and by the co-opted unionists of the venue that had been rented. On Friday, June 25, a massive community rally was brutally detained by special police forces, who prohibited the entry of the rally further south into the core. Additionally, a few police raids were conducted on the houses of organizers during the early morning hours.

At this time, hundreds of people are waiting on bail court hearings to formalize the charges in relation to the June 26 and 27 protests. Special police riot forces are still now walking around the downtown core.

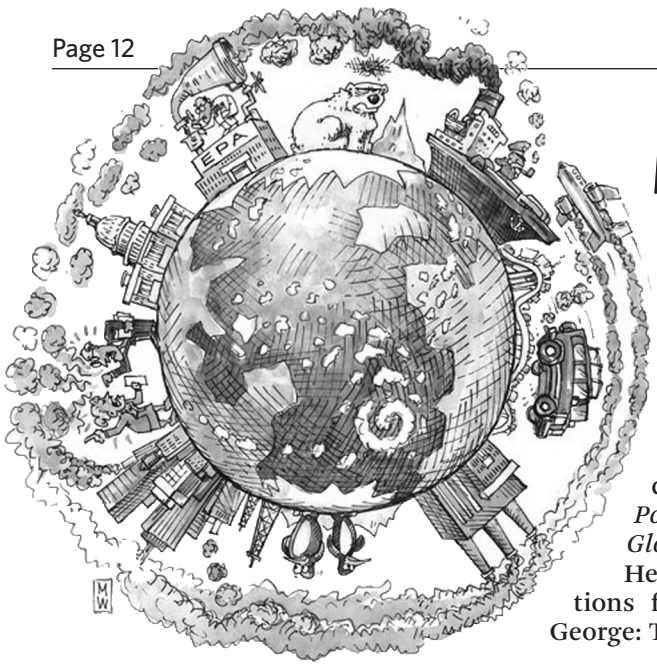
The Women's Coordinating Committee Chile Canada is a political solidarity organization of women that work in defense of human rights, specifically in the area of Chilean, Mapuche and International political prisoners. As a completely non-profit, grassroots organization, their objective is to diffuse information on the systematic violation of human rights in today's Chile to the international community. For more information, email wccc_98@hotmail.com

Activists at the Social Forum introductory march ***Photo by Sasha Y. Kimel***

State of the States' Budgets

- States are suffering from the greatest decline "in state tax receipts on record."
- 48 states' 2010 budgets have collectively dealt with revenue shortfalls totalling $200 billion or 30 percent of state budgets — the largest gaps on record.
- Only about $40 billion remains for 2011 in federal aid to states provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities predicts states will have "total budget shortfalls of $260 billion for 2011 and 2012."
- "Every state save Vermont has some sort of balanced-budget law. So the shortfalls for 2009 and most of the shortfalls for 2010 have already been closed through a combination of spending cuts, withdrawals from reserves, revenue increases, and use of federal stimulus dollars." Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- High unemployment will continue to keep state tax receipts at reduced levels and "increase demand for Medicaid and other essential services that states provide."
- When states lay off employees, cancel contracts, "eliminate or lower payments to businesses and nonprofit organizations that provide direct services, and cut benefit payments to individuals," this removes demand from the economy and will cause the economy to worsen.
- "The Medicaid funds are scheduled to expire in December 2010. States will have drawn down most of their State Fiscal Stabilization Fund allocations by then as well." -- CBPP
- "The budget cutting that is dead ahead will be a significant impediment to economic growth later this year into 2011." Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics Inc.
- "State and local governments will have to dismiss 162,000 workers if Congress fails to extend about $24 billion of Medicaid payments." Lawrence Mishel, president of the Economic Policy Institute in Washington
- California has a $19 billion deficit. Governor Schwarzenegger is pursuing deeper spending cuts, including elimination of the state's welfare program for the poor. In addition, 200,000 CA state employees have now had their hourly wage reduced to minimum wage.
- Last fall, college tuition in California increased 32 percent.
- More than 200,000 California state workers are being furloughed to save $1.7 billion.
- 5,300 California Franchise Tax Board workers are being forced to take off three days a month. For every dollar saved, $7.15 is lost in uncollected taxes.
- In the last 18 months, Arizona sold off more than $1 billion worth of buildings—"from prisons and office buildings to the Arizona State Hospital and even the Capitol building"—to remedy its budget woes. The state will now be forced to lease back the buildings for 20 years for far more than the state gained.
- Michigan can no longer afford its state fair established 1849.
- In February, Texas contracted with a private firm to build and operate 14 miles of toll roads.
- Indiana ended a 10-year, $1.3 billion contract with IBM and other companies to dole out welfare benefits because the computer system made too many mistakes.
- Nationwide, the average price of in-state tuition and fees at four-year public colleges rose 6.5 percent.
- Adults on Medicaid in four states in 2009 lost vision and dental benefits, forcing them to absorb the costs or do without.
- More than half the states cut corrections costs last year either by closing prisons, reducing inmate rehabilitation programs, or releasing prisoners early.
- In February, California put up for sale two dozen state office buildings across the state. Once sold, the state will then lease the buildings for the next 20 years.
- Minnesota saved $1.8 billion last summer by pushing back a chunk of school funding until 2011. Then in January, they decided to delay an additional $400 million until May 30, 2010, leaving many schools out of cash by March.
- On June 22, Oregon Governor Kulongoski ordered a 9 percent across-the-board budget cut to remedy a $577 deficit in state revenue.
  - Funding for special education dropped about $3 million below federal requirements.
  - Cuts to the Oregon's Department of Human Services programs include programs to help families with developmentally disabled children and two in-home care programs that serve about 10,500 elderly adults.
  - Funds to Meals on Wheels was reduced $300,000 and will be forced to drop 153 seniors who will no longer get food delivered to their homes.
- Due to Missouri state budget cuts, the emergency room at the Metropolitan St. Louis Psychiatric Center, which treats about 2,200 patients a year, will be closed.
- The State of Illinois cut nearly $300 million from education, cancelling agricultural education to arts education to alternative schools for at-risk students.
- New Mexico State University has been forced to trim about $5.2 million from its budget for the coming fiscal year, eliminating 68 jobs.
- Washington State employees are being forced to take an unpaid holiday on July 12 to save $38 million in general-fund payroll.
- March 16 the New Jersey Governor called for massive cuts due to a $10.7 billion budget deficit.
- New Jersey, in June, passed its 2010 budget that "cuts school aid by $820 million, sheds 1,000 state workers and assumes $50 million in savings from privatization. It skips a $3 billion contribution to the state pension system and leaves about $300 million in surplus." 58 family planning centers will also lose their entire state allocation of $7.5 million, about a quarter of their budgets. Governor Christie vetoed an additional tax on millionaires. The one-year surcharge would have raised about $600 million by increasing income taxes nearly 2 percent on the state's 16,000 highest wage earners.
- The number of state workers fell in 28 states in fiscal year 2009. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- According to federal officials, the furloughing of state workers has affected the delivery of unemployment checks, disability payments and food stamps for millions.
- Louisiana is considering the privatization of its employee health insurance program.
- Hawaii shortened its school year by 17 days.
- Chicago leased the rights to 75 years of parking meter revenues in exchange for $1.15 billion.
- The death of the jobs bill last month in WA DC will phase out benefits for 200,000 people a week. State will now have to implement more budget cuts, tax increases and layoffs.
- California college tuition will rise this fall by another 5 percent, 10 percent for doctoral students.
- In June, Connecticut Governor Rell announced a 2010 state budget surplus of nearly $243 million because of increased tax revenues spurred by the improving economy, $76 million more than predicted. The extra money would help the state cut down its borrowing. Connecticut has added jobs in each of the last five months, which has helped increase income and sales tax collections. Despite the better-than-expected numbers for the current fiscal year, the state is still projecting a deficit of more than $3 billion in fiscal year 2012.

Sources: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; The Chicago Tribune; Associated Press; KMOV-TV Inc, St. Louis; Stateline.org; The Fiscal Times; Ben Lurie, Utne; NY Times; United Press International; PRNewswire; The Tacoma News Tribune.



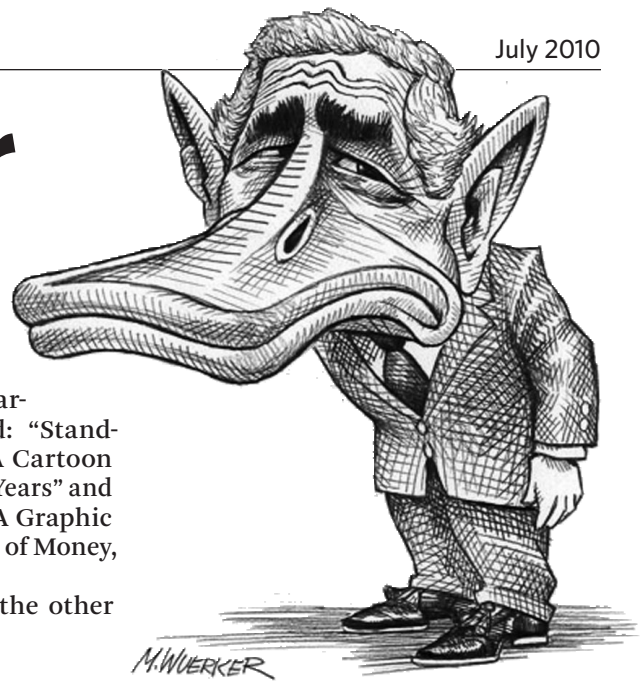
Matt Wuerker

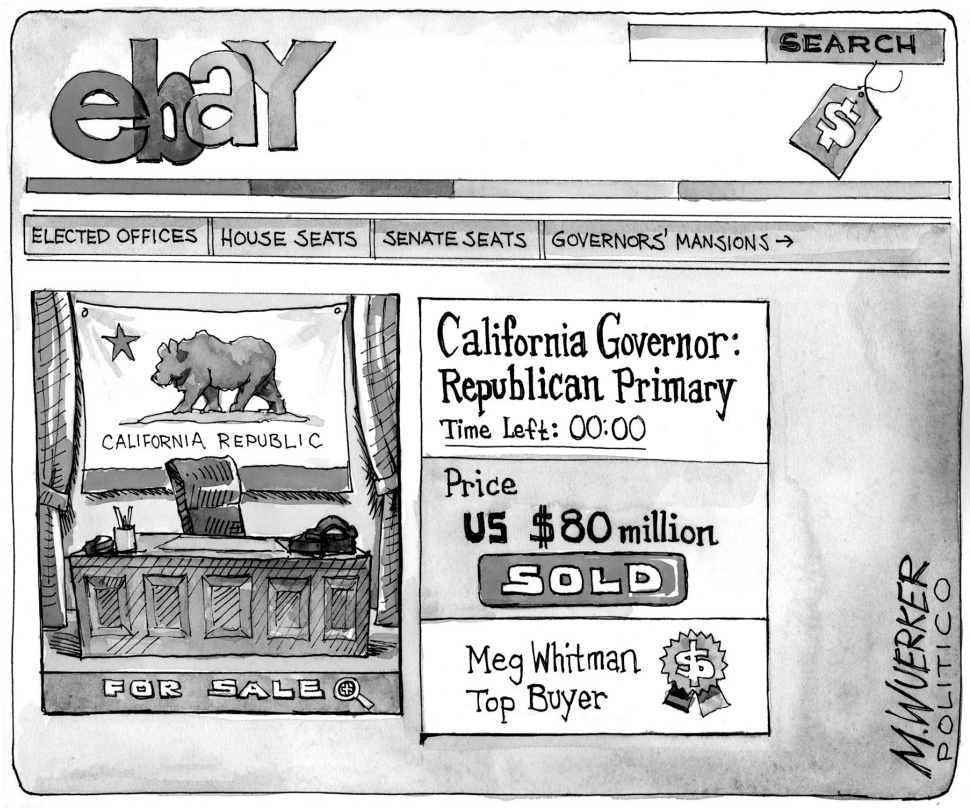
A cartoonist and illustrator for Politico, political satirist Matt Wuerker was a 2010 Pulitzer finalist in editorial cartooning. He was free-lance for 25-years and has been published in most progressive alternative media as well as the *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, and The *Toronto Globe and Mail*.

He provided editorial illustrations for "The Madness of King George: The Igenious Insanity of Our Most Misunderestimated President" which lampooned "the insane world of George W. Bush, and the inmates at the White House Asylum."

"Two collections of his cartoons have been published: "Standing Tall in Deep Doo Doo: A Cartoon Chronicle of the Bush Quayle Years" and "Meanwhile in Other News: A Graphic Look at Politics in the Empire of Money, Sex and Scandal."

Matt and his wife live in the other Washington.





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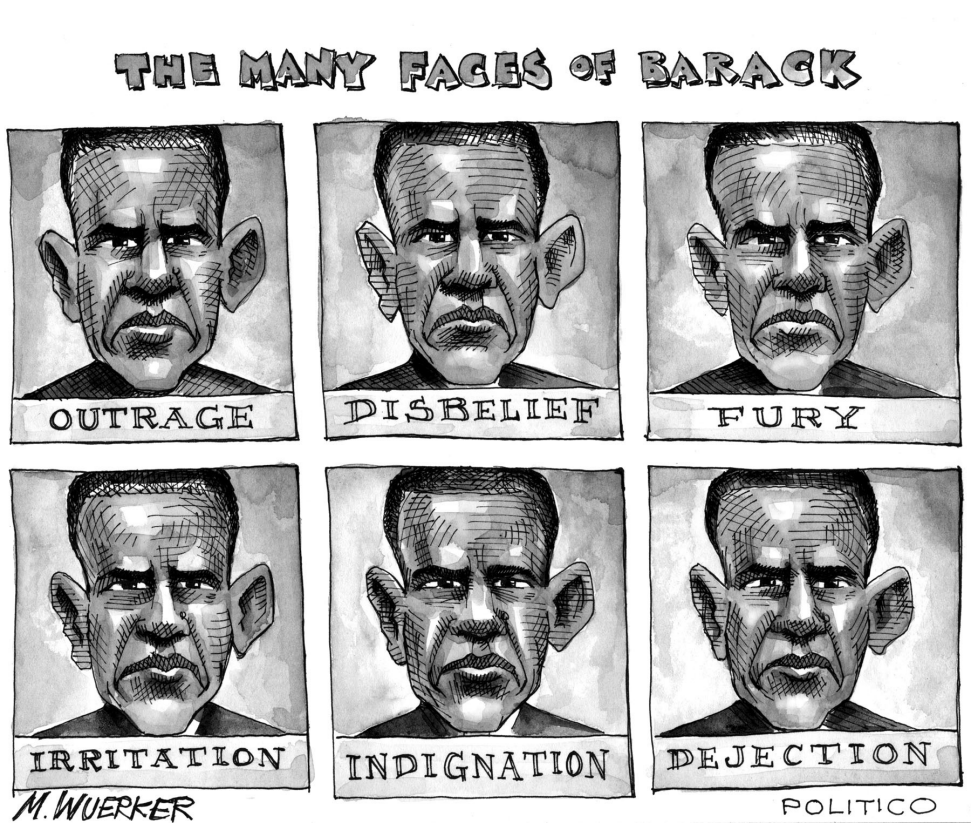

WIP History

Every month, *Works In Progress* reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. In light of last month's attacks on the Gaza aid flotillas, and the recent rise in nationalist jingoism on the part of Israel's supporters, we have chosen this piece by Craig Hymson on the difficulties faced by those opposing Israel, especially within the Jewish community.

Peace between Palestinians and Israelis

Breaking the silence

by Craig Hymson
December 1996

"If you love the Arabs so much, why don't you go and live with them?", she yelled into the face of the 16 year old Jewish boy as he repeated for the fourth time, "We have to share." *"Give up the land?"*, she continued, *"Who raised you to have such crazy ideas? How could a Jew believe such things? Are you really Jewish?"* He glanced down at the anti-Palestinian flyers on her information table and was silent as she continued, *"You probably want to give Jerusalem to them, too."*

"We have to share that also," he countered. She turned her back to him with one last blanket dismissal of his views, spun around and said, *"You don't know what you are talking about. You are a baby! I lived there more years than you are alive. I know how they* [Arabs? Palestinians?] *are!"*

Last month, I witnessed this scene from across the lobby of the Washington State Trade and Convention Center. That evening, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu would be addressing the General Assembly of Jewish Federations, a yearly in-gathering of Jews from across North America. I was handing out flyers for the Jewish Call for Peace Now rally to be held later that evening across the street from the pro-Netanyahu, anti-peace process rally that the woman the boy had argued with was organizing.

Seemingly undaunted, I watched him walk away with his two giggling friends. "How was he really feeling?" I wondered. Was he hurt? Angry? Insulted? Confused? Did this experience strengthen his resolve or will he be reluctant to open his mouth the next time? Either way, I admired him, since at 25, I have only been outspoken on Israeli-Palestinian peace issues for a few years.

In that time, I too have had my share of confrontations within the "Jewish community." Earlier that day in fact, my own loyalty to the tribe was also questioned. A man approached me holding up one of our buttons and asked "Are you part of this?" Yes, I replied, knowing what was coming by the distraught look on his face and by the way he made a bee-line for the table when he noticed our Complete the Peace banner. "Are you Israeli?", he pressed. I told him I wasn't. "But you are Jewish?" I nodded. "Then let me ask you a question. How can you stand here and oppose the *democratically elected government of Israel?*" It was a phrase taken right off one of the leaflets from the table across the way.

I explained to him that our rally is to support the continuation of the Oslo peace process begun in 1993 by Israel and the P.L.O. I was there in solidarity with *democratically motivated* Israelis working for peace and opposing the Netanyahu government policies toward the Palestinians.

"What policies?", he wanted to know.

"Well," I replied, "settlement expansion, the continued occupation of Hebron, and the demolition of Arab homes in Jerusalem to name a few."

He responded with the classic rebuff to American Jewish criticism of Israeli State policy: "Who are you to oppose anything? You want to oppose, go live in Israel."

He responded with the classic rebuff to American Jewish criticism of Israeli State policy: "Who are you to oppose anything? You want to oppose, go live in Israel."

At the heart of Jewish reluctance to oppose Israeli policies is the fear that criticism of Israel will add fuel to the fires of those bent on Israel's destruction. This hesitancy even manifests itself in the Jewish left, as we often criticize Israel strongly amongst other Jews but soften our words when speaking to the non-Jewish world. One reason for this is that sometimes, when speaking to non-Jews about Israel, particularly in secular left-wing circles, legitimate criticism turns into anti-Jewish rhetoric.

On this day however, we were going public and found a lot of support amongst assembly-goers, as well as a lot of disdain. One woman told me that, "If you want to have your message heard, say it inside the convention center. Why do you have to hold your protest outside where people can twist your message for no good?" I told her we initially wanted to have it inside, but the Israeli Secret Service felt it would be a security risk, so we had to take it to the street. She walked away shaking her head, and I felt bad that she was unhappy, since she reminded me of my grandmother, and because we actually managed to get through the exchange without screaming at each other.

Despite this fear of criticizing Israel, there have been times when American Jews felt compelled to break the silence. When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 and again when on the nightly news American Jews witnessed the brutality of the Occupation during the Intifada, people spoke out. But now, after years of negotiations, when a framework exists, when peace, while far from assured, is possible, American Jews are being directed to put the gags back in our mouths and feign unity behind the Israeli government. That evening, during his address, Netanyahu told the assembly that peace won't happen as long as Palestinians and the rest of the world perceive rifts among Jews on how to reduce the friction. Such divisions only "encourage intransigence" by the Arabs and increase the tensions. In other words, dissent harms Israel.

But the Prime Minister and many of his supporters are hypocrites. After the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords, the Likud Party, with Netanyahu at the helm, publically pressed their anti-peace process and anti-Palestinian views on Capitol Hill and on American Jewry. In fact, last year, Netanyahu's Likud predecessor, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, addressing the annual dinner of the Zionist Organization of America, urged the guests to ignore then Prime Minister Rabin and "fight against the creation of a Palestinian state..." Shamir told the crowd, "I feel in every fiber of my being that this is not the time for silence." Now that the right has won, the rest of us are not to interfere with Israel's internal affairs.

Interestingly, most Jews at the assembly were speaking out against the Israeli government, but not concerning the peace process, but concerning the question "Who is a Jew?" - a controversy that has mainstream Jewish leadership actively trying to influence Israeli policy-making. You see, in order for Netanyahu to have won the election, he had to make unholy alliances with some of the most fundamentalist ultra-orthodox Jews in the Israeli Parliament who want nothing more than to turn Israel into a theocracy where only the Orthodox are recognized and have rights. They are trying to pass a law where conversions performed by non-orthodox rabbis outside of Israel will no longer be recognized by the state of Israel. While I wholeheartedly support active opposition to this attempt at denying religious freedom, I think American Jews need to ask ourselves a question. If we feel compelled to "interfere" in Israeli politics so that we might continue to be free to define ourselves as Jews, are we not also compelled to speak out when core values of what it means to be a Jew are threatened by the continued occupation and subjugation of another people by the Jewish state?

The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic is open again!

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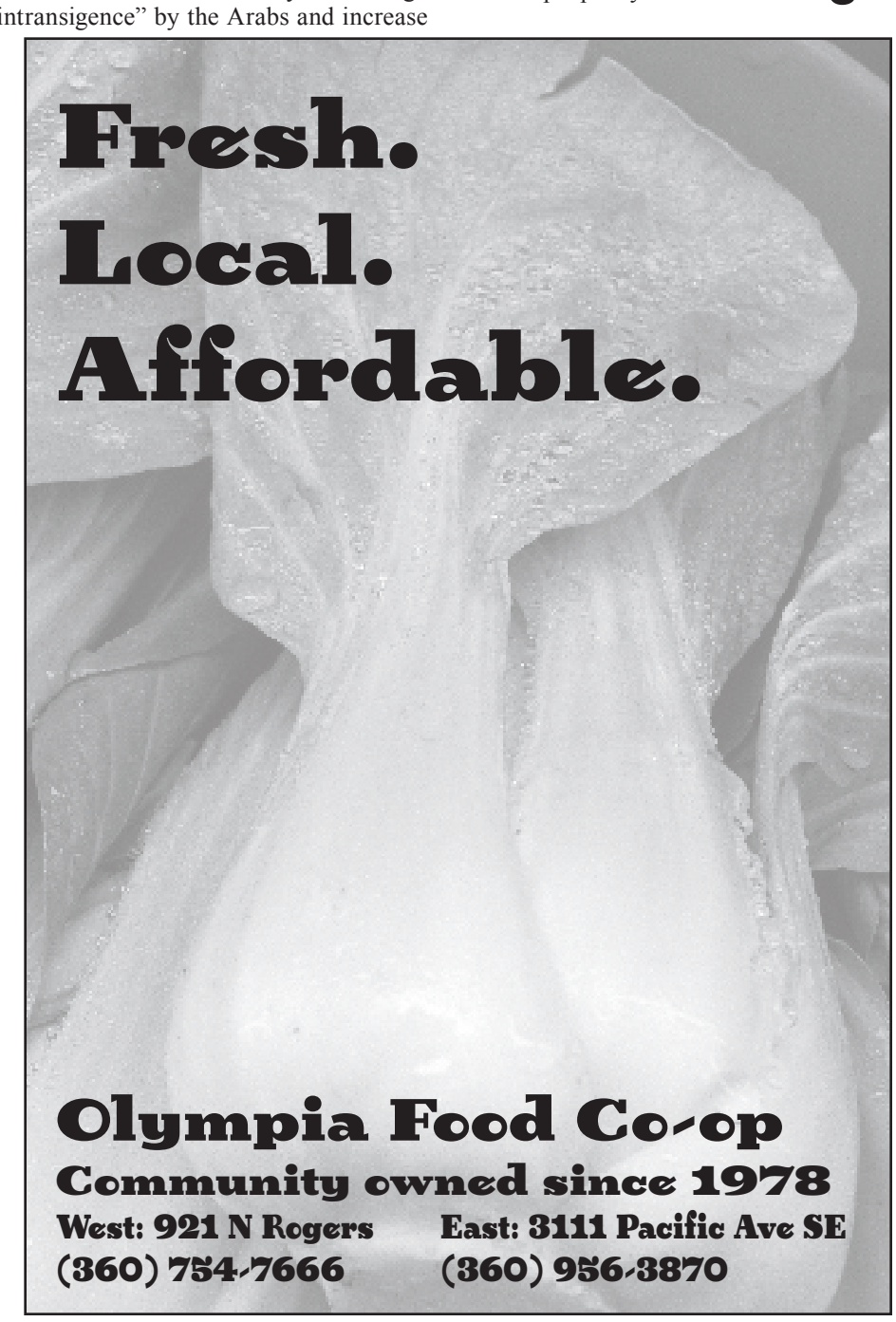

TC PRO-NET'S 6th annual Progressive Town Hall Picnic and Candidate Forum

Sunday, July 11, 2010
3:30PM - 8:00PM

Don & Sherri's Home
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This is a potluck picnic ...we provide salmon, chicken, baked beans, wine, beer, lemonade and more... We hope you will bring your favorite picnic dish to share with us!

The Candidate Forum

All local politicians who are running for office will be invited to attend. We will have a specific slate of questions for each office. These questions will be given to the candidates ahead of time. Our MC, Lisa Paribello, will then ask each candidate to answer one or two of the questions. This is a great way to gain some knowledge about candidates for each office and their positions on issues!

Author Paul Loeb will be the keynote speaker. Paul is the author of *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*. His new book, *Soul of a Citizen*, 2nd Edition has just been released in all bookstores. Paul is a great speaker and a true progressive. After his speech he will autograph books and do a Q & A with interested folks.

His books will be available for purchase, so BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK! (We don't have a credit card machine.)

From drunken party girl to climate change activist

by Paul Rogat Loeb

When we try to engage people politically we never know who will respond, or when someone will shift from reveling in their apathy to taking powerful public stands. Here's a striking example of one such transformation.

Virginia Tech freshman Angie De Soto didn't vote in the 2004 election. The president, she thought, had nothing to do with her life. She didn't care who won. Instead, she and friends played a drinking game in one of their dorm rooms. Nobody cared who won the election, so they divided into random "red" and "blue" teams, and chugged a beer each time new results on TV favored their team. Angie woke up the next morning hung over and with no idea of the election outcome, but it hardly seemed to matter.

When Angie started college, she focused mostly on her social life and picked her classes almost at random. But midway through a resources geology lecture course, her professor told the students, "I'm going to talk about an issue that's going to change your whole future." For two days, he discussed global climate change, and Angie, who'd never heard of it, was stunned. She called her mother, who worked as a teacher, and said "Mom, I just learned about global warming. What is this? Have you heard about it?" Her mother had no idea what Angie was talking about even after she tried to explain it. "Neither did any of the girls on my hall," Angie said. "I just kept asking myself why I hadn't heard about something this important, and why more people weren't doing anything about it. Didn't they know? Didn't they care? Did they just not know what to do?"

Virginia Tech had a nascent student group called the Environmental Coalition, but Angie had never encountered them. The group's presence was negligible on the school's largely politically disengaged campus of 28,000. Angie was too shy to approach her professor, and she didn't know what to do beyond trying to learn more through searching out related websites and taking an environmental policy class. Then, while Angie was walking across campus one day, a young woman from the Environmental Coalition approached her to sign a petition for a green fee, by which "students would pay a bit extra to support the campus recycling program and small efficiency projects." Angie started going to EC meetings. Although she liked the people and the effort they were making, she felt they weren't making the impact that they could; they did little to bring in new members, and administrators wouldn't return their phone calls or emails. That changed when Angie received a scholarship to attend a student climate conference. "They taught us everything about how to organize: how to recruit people, plan events, run effective meetings, develop leadership, raise money, and lead large-scale campaigns. I came back incredibly charged up, eager to teach as many other students as I could what I'd learned. For the first time, I began to feel like this was my calling. That one class changed my life with a sense of what we're facing. I felt I finally had the skills to do something about it."

Through her involvement, Angie learned about the Public Interest Research Groups, the PIRGs, which combine campus organizing with neighborhood canvasses and legislative campaigns. After finding a Sacramento, California, PIRG office that was working for a state cap on climate emissions, she accepted an aunt's invitation to stay with her there. Angie worked 13 hours a day as a field manager, knocking on doors to talk with people about the issues. Angie had been working since her first year of high school, including fifteen hours a week in the Virginia Tech dining halls, and "this was more hours for less money than any job I'd had. But I loved it. It was one of the best experiences of my life."

"I just kept asking myself why I hadn't heard about something this important, and why more people weren't doing anything about it. Didn't they know? Didn't they care? Did they just not know what to do?"

The PIRGs helped pass the California state climate change bill, and Angie returned to Virginia "on top of the world. Before, I was too intimidated to approach people because we just didn't talk about environmental issues on our campus. Now I'd go up to everyone." She kicked the EC into high gear, setting up a major concert with local bands and training members to approach local media, gather names for the email list, and table at the student center. "We'd approach people as they walked by and ask if they wanted to stop global warming. Then we'd talk about the issues and try to get them involved. I had grown a thick skin from getting the door slammed all those times when I was canvassing, so if they didn't respond I just asked the next person."

As Angie's involvement deepened, she found more ways to act on her newfound convictions. She brought over 100 Virginia Tech students to Power Shift, a national student climate change conference held at the University of Maryland. Angie also helped plan the entertainment, and as she looked out from the stage at 6,000 students, "felt for the first time like we really have a movement."

Working with 18 other student groups, the EC also built a Coalition for Campus Sustainability that even included the college Republicans, which delighted Angie because, as she stressed, "this was an issue that should transcend political parties." Meanwhile, the campus recycling department hired her to coordinate and train a team of 30 student volunteers who educated dorm residents on environmental issues and ways to reduce their individual impact.

In the process, the EC became one of the school's largest student groups, with a 1,600-name listserv. And they finally got a meeting with college president Charles Steger. "We went in very organized," Angie said. "We dressed professionally, were professional in our tone and word choice, and brought thoroughly researched proposals." The group members asked Steger to join 600 of his peers who had signed the national Presidents' Climate Commitment. Steger balked at just signing a statement and instead offered to create a comprehensive campus plan, which he said would mean far more. He commissioned a committee of administrators, faculty, and students to draft a plan by fall. The committee hired Angie, and she spent the summer pulling together ideas and highly specific implementation plans from the EC group and from other schools. "This issue can be so overpowering," she said, "but if we bring it down to what we can do as individuals and as a campus, people feel they can make a difference." Although administrators initially said no to some suggestions, "we didn't freak out. You have to keep approaching them, coming up with new ideas, offering reasonable and feasible solutions."

After the group completed the plan, and Angie was hired to carry it out as university policy. Among the many changes, the school enacted comprehensive recycling procedures, switched to high-efficiency light bulbs, installed energy-saving occupancy sensors in the classrooms, and took steps to ensure that new buildings would meet strong environmental standards. The campus saved $200,000 in just one month by lowering winter thermostats to a still-comfortable 68 degrees—and would save more by slightly raising the summer settings. The dining halls decreased food waste by 38 percent by eliminating trays and developed a plan for composting the rest. The university also pledged to explore alternative fuels, make environmentally responsible purchasing a priority, and look into additional efficiency gains, including phasing out their aging coal-fired boilers.

"I started out just an apathetic drunken party girl, with no clear path in my life," Angie said. "Now I'm implementing our campus sustainability plan. People change and even massive institutions can change."

Adapted from the wholly updated new edition of Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in Challenging Times *by Paul Rogat Loeb (St Martin's Press, publication date April 5, 2010, $16.99 paperback). With over 100,000 copies in print, Soul has become a classic guide to involvement in social change. Bill McKibben calls it "a powerful inspiration to citizens acting for environmental sanity." Alice Walker says, "The voices Loeb finds demonstrate that courage can be another name for love." The Sierra Club magazine writes, "Loeb examines the stumbling blocks—perceived powerlessness, cynicism, burnout—that keep most Americans from participating in the public sphere, as well as the rewards of following a different path." Loeb also wrote* The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear, *the History Channel and American Book Association's #3 political book of 2004. For more information or to receive Loeb's articles directly, see www.paulloeb.org. From* Soul of a Citizen *by Paul Rogat Loeb. Copyright © 2010 by the author and reprinted by permission of St. Martin's Griffin. Reposting or forwarding is fine so long as this notice stays intact.*

To receive Paul's articles directly please email sympa@lists.groundwire.org with the subject line: subscribe paulloeb-articles

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to olywip@gmail.com or Works In Progress PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

A gathering for optimistic rebels

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
JULY 9-11
For more information: 206 985-4621 or www.socialism.com

The Freedom Socialist Party is happy to invite Pacific Northwesterners to three days of freewheeling discussion of ideas and action, from Friday, July 9 through Sunday, July 11, at its convention at Evergreen State College in Olympia. This is a gathering for people who are not only convinced that another world is possible but are eager to explore what that different world would be — and how working women and men, together with students, the poor, and the unemployed, can bring it about.

Sessions will range from a discussion of the socialist feminist alternative to Wall Street to an intergenerational exchange about activist leadership and dialogues about how to win justice for immigrants, queers, and people of color. Workshops on Saturday and Sunday afternoons will tackle everything from global warming and big oil to Marx's Capital and how to give a good public speech.

Registration is $20 per day — $10 per day for students and strikers. Overnight housing and meals on campus are available with registration in advance. Complete information is available at www.socialism.com, or call 206-985-4621. We hope to see you there!

The following story was published in Freedom Socialist, Vol. 31, No. 2.

by Travis Giobbi

Back in 2006, I was invited to the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) national convention in Portland, Ore. Since the last and only similar event I'd been to was the 2003 Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) convention, I was apprehensive to say the least. Not only was that held in a swanky resort town in the central Oregon mountains, but guests had absolutely nothing to do but be dazzled by state party officials. The bright spot of that long weekend was back at the lodge with my folks, not the politics.

So, naturally, my response to the idea of another convention was less than positive. I was assured that FSP conventions were anything but networking and rubbing elbows with bigwigs. Once I heard that, and that there would be international guests, I was in. I dove right in, too, by helping set up the convention room, painting the banner and helping arrange for childcare — triple the involvement that the DPO even wanted.

Right away I knew my decision would be rewarding. Being a book junkie, the lit display was the first thing to catch my eye (other than that gorgeous banner). There were dozens of titles, new and old, used and rare. All of them were about, by and for people wanting to make this a more humane world. Already having a healthy skepticism of the education I received growing up, and the corporate media, I especially appreciated all the books/authors/topics that had been nearly erased from history — namely, **revolution**.

I soon realized there was a name for how I viewed the world — it was being called a "Marxist analysis." Not only did that not make me crazy, but here were about 200 people who thought the same way, or wanted to. We looked at things and people with empathy rather than narcissism, logic rather than faith.

I wasn't alone for wanting a society without poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia and super-über-wealth. On top of that, we were gathered to discuss our role in abolishing it, as workers in the 21st century. Finally I could get beyond thinking that the system was just fucked up and unfair. Capitalism is its name, it has outlived its usefulness, and we're part of the movement to kick it to the curb like used cat litter.

We not only analyzed and discussed the current state of affairs in the United States, but also how it affects the global working class. The convention wasn't U.S.-centric at all, but since this is the belly of the beast, activists here have a special responsibility to remove the brakes from the rest of the world's progress. To aid in this discussion, there were plentiful snacks (healthy and guilt-ridden) and coffee available *all the time* to keep our minds functioning and critical.

The party leadership made proposals for getting FSP's politics into the most hands and movements. Organized labor, when it wants to, can make almost anything happen, but union membership has drastically dropped since the 1950s. So, simple solution: let's all get union jobs or organize our workplaces! And since the immigrant rights movement had recently burst to the forefront, and a majority of immigration is from Latin America, the non-Spanish speaking members were encouraged to learn the language.

With these and other proposals made, a healthy democratic discussion followed. Everyone was encouraged to weigh in — guests and members. It was clear to me that everyone's life experience and opinions had value in this working-class party. After a lifetime of having to be reminded by the media and government that this is, in fact, a democracy, it was refreshing to experience some actual democracy.

Oops, maybe I should have addressed something earlier — the word "leadership." I know the word can ruffle some feathers; it tends to imply that the rest of us are followers. Not here. There are no rock star leaders in FSP. The driving force behind this party is the notion that we're all leaders. But a few of the group are in positions that hold them accountable to the rank and file. And they are totally accessible — they are normal people and they know it.

So long story short, or less long, I've been looking forward to the 2010 convention since 2006. I can't wait to see my comrades from other cities and countries. Even more, though, I can't wait to meet a lot of new people.

Activist and hip-hop fan Travis Giobbi is a union painter in Portland, Ore.

Pizza Party Fundraiser for Free Radio Olympia

July 9, Friday - 6:00—9:30pm
Fertile Ground Guesthouse
311 9th Ave SE ~ Olympia, WA 98501
360.352.2428

Come out and support our pirate radio station and have fun doing it. Email fro@riseup.net for more information.

Neighborhood Energy Fair

July 10, Saturday - 10am—4pm
Madison Elementary School
1225 Legion Way SE, Olympia

Come explore Your Pathway to Savings
Make your next home improvement an Energy Efficiency Upgrade!
Learn to Do It Yourself
OR
Find a Contractor to help you Weatherize
For Event Info: Call (360) 528-8667
Hands-on Demonstrations! Free Workshops!

- Basics of Home Heat Loss
- Weatherizing your Doors & Windows
- Insulation Options
- Incentives for Efficient Equipment Upgrades
- Cool Thurston Campaign

Bring the Whole Family! Free Children's Activities.
Sponsored by:

- Thurston Energy www.ThurstonEnergy.org
- Northwest EcoBuilding Guild www.sps.EcoBuilding.org
- Home EmPOWERment ProjectTM Weatherization Station www.HomeEmPOWERment.org

Organize to stop sweatshops

July 13, Tuesday – 7:00pm
Traditions Café
5th & Water SW Olympia

South Sound Clean Clothes Campaign formed in 2000 to address sweatshop issues and has focused on getting public institutions to adopt sweatshop free purchasing practices. Info: Dick Meyer 705-2819 and www.southsoundcleanclothes.org

Film Screening Benefit for Natalie Cox

July 16, Friday - 8:30pm doors/9:30
Capitol Theater
206 5th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501
360-754-6670

Don't Need You: The Herstory of Riot Grrrl- – one time screening! Admission is $5.00. Proceeds help pay for her treatment. All ages with 21+beer garden.

Join us in a special one time screening of "Don't Need You: The Herstory of Riot Grrrl" a documentary movie that tells the story of the origins of Riot Grrrl in the American independent music scene of the 1990s. The movie features one-on-one interviews interspersed with rare, archival materials, including original Riot Grrrl fanzines, flyers, and photographs, as well as seldom seen footage from pioneering Riot Grrrl bands like Bikini Kill, Heavens to Betsy, and Bratmobile.

This screening will be a benefit for Natalie Cox who is prominently featured in the movie. Natalie is a former Olympian and original riot grrrl who is fighting a rare and aggressive form of cancer called Angiosarcoma. Natalie and her husband Dee have a three-year old son; Dillon. Natalie has remained active in music, and art, and is a D.I.Y entrepreneur, www.midnighttosix.etsy.com. She is up against a huge struggle that costs well beyond the resources at her disposal. Help Natalie, her family and her friends beat this thing! Further information about Natalie and ways to donate are available at: http://teamnataliecox.blogspot.com

Voices from Cambodian Genocide

July 18, Sunday - 3—5pm
Pleasant Glade Elementary School
1920 Abernethy Rd NE, Lacey
360.754.6670

Between 1975 and 1979, an estimated 2 million Cambodians were killed by the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime. Among the victims were Muslim Cham people. A large community of Cham survivors today live in the Olympia area.

Please join us for a unique program featuring personal stories from the Cambodian 'Killing Fields.' Speakers will include Rokaih Vansot, a Lacey resident and daughter of survivors from the Cham community, and Daran Kravanh, survivor of the Killing Fields, who lost his parents and seven siblings to the Khmer Rouge.

This event is free. Donations are requested. For more information, call 360-790-1205.

Stonewall Youth Drag Show Extravaganza!

July 24, Sat. 6:30pm doors/7pm show.
Capitol Theater
206 5th Avenue SE, Olympia, WA 98501
360.754.6670

Join us for our 10th annual Stonewall Youth Drag Show Extravaganza! Set during the Stonewall rebellion, our kings and queens bravely battle the world one high heeled shoe at a time. This year's West Side Story themed show is filled with drag, glitter, song, dance, and revolution. Would you really expect anything less?

$5.00 for youth/ $10.00 – $15.00 sliding scale for those 18 and over. Tickets available at the box office night of show only. All Ages.

If you would like to help or would like more information contact: www.stonewallyouth.org or call 360-705-2738.

Join *Works In Progress* and Fertile Ground for the mandala repainting and a Pizza Party Fundraiser!

July 31, Saturday
Mandala repainting - 5:00—6:00 pm
Pizza party - 6:00—9:30 pm
Fertile Ground Guesthouse
311 9th Ave SE ~ Olympia, WA 98501
360.352.2428

Come out for a night of yummy pizza in support of our local humble, free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based right here in Olympia, Washington. The pizza party is from 6-9:30. And come early to join in on the re-painting of the nearby mandala at 9th and Adams, and work up an appetite!

Email us at olywip@gmail.com for more information.

WIP is looking for a few good folks!

Works in Progress is looking for distributors to help complete some of our routes. We are a volunteer staff, unified with a passion for alternative media. Recently, a number of long-time distributors have had to retire due to health problems, or just because they're moving out of town.

Please consider joining us as a distributor to drop off papers at various points throughout Olympia or the greater region if you have the means. Leave a message for Sandia at 360-970-2206 if you are interested in joining us.

We're also interested in suggestions of places our paper has never been distributed.

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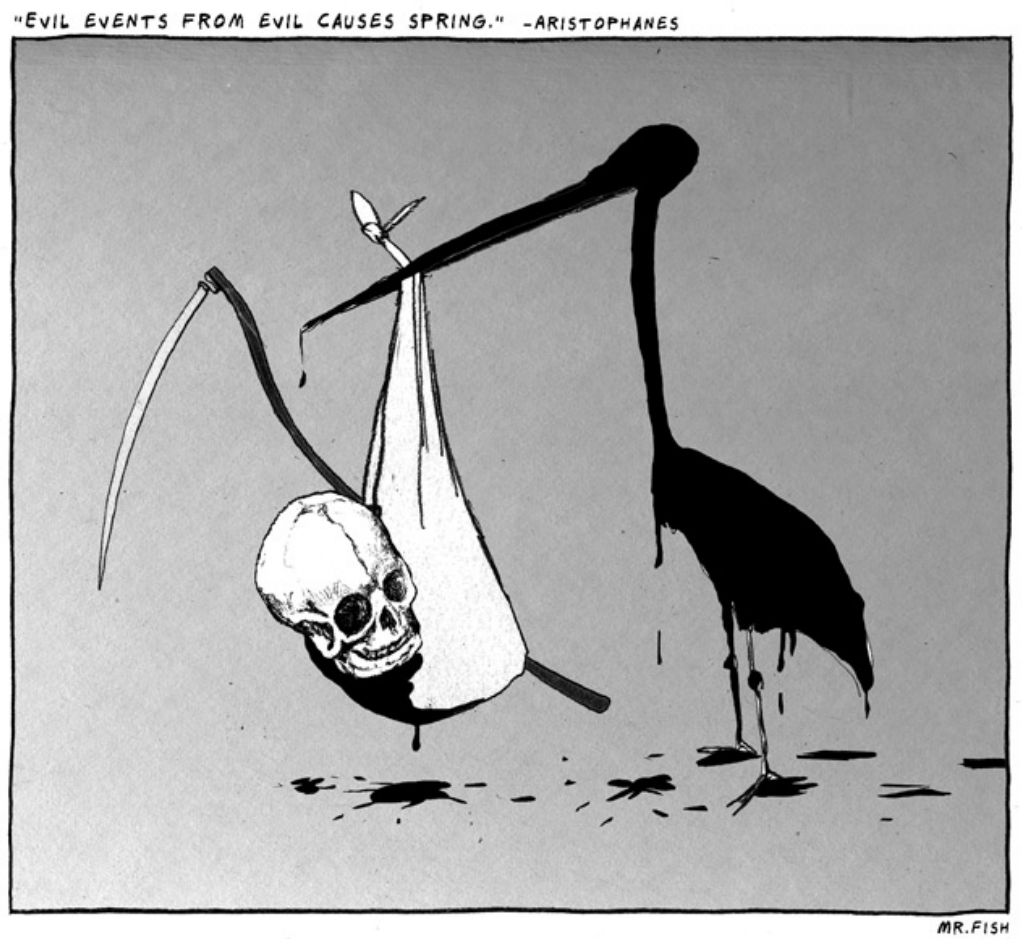
Thanks for reading!

Works in Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507



July 2010

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

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